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ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IT has been remarked (by Mr. Boswell, in his Tour to the Hebrides) that, "In every place where there is any thing worthy of observation, there should be a short printed Directory for Strangers." For this reason, and from the frequent enquiries of gentlemen, travelling through this borough, for information relative to its church, antiquities, &c. the Editor has been induced to compile this little Work. And, as it is more immediately calculated for the convenience of strangers, it may be necessary to observe, that it is collected not only from a variety of materials found in the best authors, but from an attentive examination of the church, &c. on the spot, as well as the best private information. And he embraces this opportunity of acknowledging his obligations to those gen-

682015
ENGLISH LOCAL

tlernen who have furnished him with several manuscript copies of ancient records, and the works of many learned authors who have treated on this subject.

The Editor intreats the candour of his readers, and their pardon of errors and defects, which, (notwithstanding every care,) may be found in this publication ; alledging for his excuse, the want of more authentic records, and the contradictions and chasms, which, in the lapse of a thousand years, must be expected in those which are to be obtained.



PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

WHEN success stimulates to new exertions, and gratitude displays itself in a solicitude to please, the public, it is hoped, will allow that favour has not been misplaced, or encouragement thrown away.

Animated by the recollection of past approbation to attempt farther improvements, the Editor of this little volume has new modelled and extended his subject matter under almost every head. With respect to the additional engravings*, it is presumed they will be found illustrative as well as ornamental, and prove acceptable to the generality of his readers.

On the whole, he indulges the pleasing expectation that the utility of his work will not be solely confined to the place for which

* Octavo edit. pub. in 1798.

it was originally intended. What is local is often of general import ; and if he has the satisfaction to find, that by this endeavour to illustrate a small part of our national antiquities, he has prompted others of superior talents to produce similar works, where the field lies open for enquiry and investigation, he will think that his labours have not been quite in vain. Indeed that labour cannot be in vain, which has given him an opportunity of shewing his zeal in favour of a town which has conferred upon him the honour of a patronage, far beyond his humble merits, or even his most sanguine expectations.



Sketch of Gloucestershire.



THOUGH Gloucestershire has an immediate communication with the sea, by means of the Severn, it is always considered as an inland county.—During the Saxon heptarchy it belonged to the kingdom of Mercia*. It now forms a diocese of its own name, and is included in the Oxford circuit.

It is bounded on the north by Worcestershire, on the east by Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, on the south by Wiltshire and part of Somerset, and on the west by

* The kingdom of Mercia, the finest and most considerable of all the divisions of the Heptarchy, contained the counties of Huntingdon, Rutland, Lincoln, Northampton, Leicester, Derby, Nottingham, Oxford, Chester, Salop, Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, Stafford, Warwick, Buckingham, Bedford, and part of Hertford. Its length was 160 miles, and breadth about 100 miles. Derivation from the Saxon MER, signifying ABOUND.

the counties of Monmouth and Hereford. It stretches from north-east to south-west, in length about 60 miles, and in breadth upwards of 40; containing, according to the most accurate calculation, 1300 square miles, or 832,000 acres, divided into 30 hundreds and 280 parishes. In its whole extent it has one city and 26 market towns; pays 12 parts to the national land-tax, and furnishes 960 men to the militia. It delegates eight members to parliament; two for the county, and the same number for Gloucester, Tewkesbury, and Cirencester.

The general fertility and riches of Gloucestershire are almost proverbial; and its diversity of soil and situation render it picturesque and beautiful. The river Severn divides it into two unequal parts. To the west of that river, as far as the Wye, (its boundary towards Monmouthshire,) the face of the country is varied with hill and dale, and comprehends the celebrated forest of Dean, once reckoned the chief support of the English navy, and still celebrated for its mineral productions, as well as its sylvan scenes. Between the Severn and the Cotswold hills, extends the vale of Tewkesbury, possessing a soil the most fertile and luxuriant of any in the kingdom. The Cotswold hills, the eastern or upland division of this county, are no less valuable for their breed of sheep; and were once famous for the games that used to be annually celebrated in the vicinity of Camden, during Whitfun week.

High Cotswold also 'mong the shepherd swains
Is oft' remember'd, tho' the greedy plough
Preys on its carpet.

DYER'S FLEECE.

Such are the three natural divisions of this county; the forest, the vale, and the upland. Each possesses its peculiar and appropriate beauties and advantages, and taken collectively, render Gloucestershire as desirable as it is distinguished.

The staple manufactures of this county, are its woollen cloth and cheese. Though the first is less extensively carried on than formerly, on account of the rivalry it meets with in Yorkshire; the beauty of the fabric has never been excelled; and the clothing towns of Stroud, Wotton-under-Edge, Painswick, Dursley, &c. with the neighbouring villages, display a singular degree of opulence and activity.

The Gloucestershire cheese still maintains a distinguished reputation. That of Berkeley hundred, or the double Gloucester, as it is called, for richness and flavor, is justly celebrated.

Besides these two principal articles of native and artificial produce, the forests of Dean and Kingwood abound in mines of iron and coal, which furnish employment for a number of hands, and increase the general wealth of the nation.

Nor must we forget to particularize the excellent cyder which the vale and the forest produce. Many of the orchards, in favourable years, are not less valuable than the vineyards of France and Spain. The styre apple, almost peculiar to the western banks of the

Severn, yields a liquor so potent and delicious, that it may be named the English champaign.

The bacon too of this county is in high estimation, and forms no inconsiderable article of its domestic commerce. The salmon of the Severn and the Wye are also plentiful and choice, and are conveyed to the metropolis in great quantities.

In a particular description of Gloucestershire, many other branches of manufacture or native produce, would deserve notice ; but a general survey is all that can be expected here.

Near the conflux of the Severn and the Warwickshire Avon, stands TEWKESBURY. As this antient town forms the subject of the present volume, we shall only observe, in this place, that it will ever be distinguished for its church, its monastery, and the decisive battle, fought in 1471, which reduced the Lancastrians to submission, and forced them to bend to Edw. IV.

Pursuing the course of the Severn, we come to GLOUCESTER, the capital of the county. This city, in point of antiquity, may vie with any in the kingdom. It consists of four principal streets, which meet at right angles, the central point being the most elevated ground ; from which circumstance the view has a charming effect. Modern improvements have greatly heightened the beauty of this city. A pin manufactory employs a great number of hands ; and when the amazing canal, now executing to this place, is

finished, Gloucester is likely to possess a considerable share of foreign trade; and, by lessening the expense of land carriage, will add to the benefit of the inland counties, while it enriches itself.

The basin now forming here is said to be capable of containing from 100 to 150 vessels. The dangerous navigation of the Severn, for some miles below Gloucester, has hitherto been a great bar to shipping; but this difficulty will be obviated by the canal, which is of sufficient depth and dimensions to carry vessels of 200 tons burden, without the impediment of a single lock.

BRISTOL, the second city in England for commerce and extent, is situated partly on the Gloucestershire and partly on the Somersetshire side of the lower Avon. It is now a county of itself, and therefore does not fall under our present review. The hot wells, however, in its vicinity, belong to Gloucestershire, and increase its provincial distinction. These springs have obtained great reputation for their salutary influence, in one of the most afflicting maladies to which mankind are subject. In the cure of consumptions they are generally the last resort, and were they applied to in the earlier stages of this disorder, it is probable their effects would not so often fail, nor numbers of youth of both sexes be hurried to an untimely grave.

While on the subject of mineral waters, we shall now advert to CHELTENHAM, about ten miles from Tewkesbury, and the same distance from Gloucester.—

The virtues of the Cheltenham Spa are so well known, that they do not stand in need of our recommendation. In scorbutic, bilious, and nervous complaints, they are almost a specific; while the beauty of the place, the charms of the society, and the elegance of the amusements, render this spot a favourable summer retreat, not only to invalids, but to the fashionable and the gay. Within a few years, Cheltenham has risen to great and deserved celebrity, and has increased in magnitude and population beyond most watering places in the kingdom.

CIRENCESTER, the *Corinium* of antiquity, is still a borough town of great eminence, and one of the largest in this county. Formerly its wool market was very considerable; but since the baneful practice of buying up wool, and almost every article in the country, has increased, markets of all kinds dwindle away; the poor are robbed, the growers of domestic produce not bettered, while a few monopolists fatten on both. Cirencester is famous, not only for its remains of Roman architecture, but also for earl Bathurst's extensive park, which adjoins it. In the society of the venerable Allen, earl Bathurst, Pope spent many happy days at this place; and gave it a distinction, which mere rank and opulence could never have conferred.

TETBURY is also a place of some consequence. It stands on the verge of Wiltshire, in a fertile soil, and a salubrious air. The chief ornament of this town is its superb church, which was some years since erected by subscription, at an immense expense, and in the most beautiful stile of Gothic Architecture.

STROUD stands in the centre of the clothing country, frequently called the Gloucestershire bottoms. It is seated on the side of a small stream, which is said to be peculiarly adapted for the dyeing of scarlet. On this account, its banks are covered with the seats and manufactories of the clothiers. This rivulet is accompanied in its progress to the Severn by a canal, which, passing Stroud, connects the Severn with the Isis; so that the junction of these two noble streams is no longer a poetic vision. The arched tunnel through Salperton hill is nearly two miles and a half long, and at a level 250 feet below its summit. Few works of the kind are more useful, or have been more expensive, than this navigation.

FAIRFORD is chiefly remarkable for its elegant church, built on purpose to receive the fine painted glass, the work of Albert Durer, above three centuries ago. This beautiful and unique collection of painted glass is arranged in 28 windows, in regular series; and in vivid beauty of colouring, chastity of design, and correctness of perspective, may vie with the most celebrated productions of the pencil. John Tame, a merchant in London, and a native of Fairford, had the good fortune to seize this invaluable prize, as it was transporting to Rome; and, to immortalize himself, built the church, and adorned it with the above-mentioned glass, which is still in better preservation than might be expected from the distance of time, and the revolutions which have taken place.

The other towns in this county do not present any thing remarkable to the cursory surveyor; we,

therefore, omit to particularize them. **BERKELEY CASTLE**, however, is a place of so much note in history, that it ought not to be overlooked in the most general view of this county. It was formerly dedicated to religion; but was much dishonoured by the long confinement and most inhuman murder of Edward II.—To this direful event the prophetic Bard of Gray alludes:—

“ The shrieks of death through Berkeley’s roofs that ring,
“ Shrieks of an agonizing king.”



CONTENTS.



| | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------|
| Descriptive Sketch of Gloucestershire - - | 7 |

PART I.

| | |
|---|----|
| Situation, Antiquity, and Derivation of Tewkesbury | 17 |
| Foundation of the Abbey---Historical Account of the Lords of the Manor - - - - | 21 |
| Abbey Church - - - - | 44 |
| Antient Monuments, Inscriptions, &c. - | 49 |
| Modern Monuments and Inscriptions - | 55 |
| Topographical Description of the Town, Trade and Government | 60 |
| Public Structures:---Town Hall - - | 67 |
| Market Place - - | 68 |
| House of Industry - - | 68 |
| Free Grammar School - | 68 |
| Charity School - - - - | 69 |
| Sunday Schools - - - - | 69 |
| Hamlets---Mythe and Southwick - - | 70 |
| Rivers surrounding Tewkesbury:--- | |
| The Severn - - - - | 72 |
| Avon - - - - | 79 |
| Carron and Swilgate - - | 80 |
| Remarkable and Interesting Incidents - - | 81 |

PART II.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Surrender of the Monastery to king Hen. VIII. | 107 |
| Chronological Series of the Abbots, &c. - | 113 |

CONTENTS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|
| Particulars of the Battle of Tewkesbury | - | - | 117 |
| Drayton's Verses on the Battle | - | - | 136 |
| Military Transactions in the Reign of Charles I | - | - | 139 |

APPENDIX.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|-----|
| Some Account of the Walton Water | - | - | 142 |
|----------------------------------|---|---|-----|

LIST OF THE PLATES,

Published with the large Octavo Edition of this Work,

WHICH MAY BE HAD SEPARATE,

Price 2s. a Set.

* Tewkesbury, from Cork's Hill.
 View of the Old Abbey Gate-house.
 Plan of the Town.
 Abbey Church.
 Despenfer's Monument.
 Town Hall and Market Place.

* This charming view is taken from the delightful little eminence of Cork's Hill, near an alcove erected by the present bishop of Ely, who has a pleasantly situated seat in the neighbourhood.

"Here you may sit and enjoy to great advantage a very fine view. It commands an extensive and beautiful prospect, and a good view of Tewkesbury, which is about a mile distant. Though the country is not called a very hilly one, yet the ground rises and falls in such a pleasing manner as to give great variety to it. The Severn winds sweetly through the valley, and a number of small vessels continually passing, are a very great addition to the beauty of the scene. A view up the vale of Evesham completes the landscape†."

The drawing of the above was sketched by the masterly hand of Mr. Samuel Ireland (author of Picturesque Views on the Warwickshire Avon, &c) who politely presented it to the editor for the present history.

† Mrs. Morgan in her Tour to Milford Haven.

TEWKESBURY.

SITUATION—ANTIQUITY—ORIGIN AND DERIVATION OF THE NAME.

Lost in the mist of years, Reflection strays
In search of Truth, thro' Fiction's devious ways.

ANON.

TEWKESBURY lies in the hundred to which it gives name, in the county of Gloucester; about 10 miles from that city, 15 from Worcester, and 103 miles from London; in the direct road from Bristol to Birmingham.

It is pleasantly situated in a most delightful and fertile vale, which affords luxuriant crops of grain and fruits, as well as rich pasturage for cattle and sheep. Like another Eden it is watered by four rivers: the Severn and the Avon, at the confluence of which it stands; and two smaller streams—the Carron and the Swilgate.

This irriguous situation exposes it to annoyance from great and rapid floods, when the overcharged

streams intermingling, mutually impede each others course; but the fertility they diffuse, and the intercourse they promote by navigation, amply compensate for this local inconvenience. The Severn and Avon are adapted for vessels of considerable burden; while their tributary streams, the Carron and the Swilgate, add to the general amenity and fertilization of the spot.

A desire to explore the remote antiquity of places, and to trace the derivation of their names, is so natural to the mind of man, that conjecture has too frequently been called in to supply the place of truth, and the visions of ingenious theorists have been substituted for actual demonstration.

We have all the partiality for our subject that can arise from native predilection and voluntary labour, and and wish it were in our power to do it greater justice. There is a charm in being able to develop mystery, which every historian is anxious to feel, however humble the department he assumes. In regard to the origin of Tewkesbury however, it is so remote as to be almost antecedent to written memorials. Uniform tradition has recorded the name of Theocus, a religious recluse, who lived about the end of the seventh century, and had a chapel on the banks of the Severn, near this place. Whether a town then existed where Tewkesbury now stands, is unknown; but in days when devotees followed those who were eminent for religious zeal, and the most austere were not indifferent about the admiration of their fellow men; we may reasonably suppose that Theocus was not the single inhabitant of the spot.

However this may be, whether Theocus was distinguished as a religionist, or a warrior, or both, it appears highly probable, that we owe the etymology of

Tewkesbury to this personage. A strict attention to original orthography, where it can be ascertained, is surely the best mode of investigating the derivation of names. To this end inscriptions and records, that bear evident marks of antiquity, are more conducive than a thousand hypotheses. From such a source we are fortunately able to draw considerable assistance. It appears by an antient Saxon inscription, discovered in the church of Leominster in Herefordshire, in 1592, (a copy of which is preserved in Weever's Funeral Monuments, p. 584.) that Tewkesbury in the Saxon era was called *Deotibyrp*, that is Theotibyrp, or Theot-his-byrg. Now that *Byrp* or *Byp* (lat. *Urbs*) signifies a fort, castle, town, or borough, is evident from Lye's Saxon Dict. Codex Exon. and Somn. Voc. Anglo-Saxonicum; from whence it appears, that Theotiburg means Theot his town, or the town belonging to Theot.

This derivation, though it would denote a person who possessed temporal power rather than spiritual distinction, is naturally enough deduced from Theocus; while contending etymologists lose themselves in a labyrinth of absurdities by fanciful deductions, which even the great and allowed difference between antient and modern appellations will scarcely justify.

William of Malmesbury, not satisfied with vernacular idioms, attempts to derive Tewkesbury from the Greek word *THEOTOCOS*, the *Mother of God*; because the monastery, which was afterwards built here, was dedicated to the virgin mother; but we conceive that the town was antecedent to the monastery, and that the latter obtained its name from the former.*

* It has been urged, notwithstanding the probability of the town having derived its name from Theocus, that the monastery was ante-

Others will have it that it takes its name from Dodo or Thodo, one of the lords of the manor and founder of the monastery, observing that the Ð and Th are frequently substituted for each other in the Saxon language. Hence they infer, that from Thodo comes the Latin derivative Thodocus, and from that Teodechesberie as in Domeſday book ; but this seems to be more particularly in favour of the derivation from Theocus.

It has also been conjectured, that Theocus and Dodo or Thodo were one and the same person, and to this opinion their contemporary existence appears to give probability.†

Leaving such disquisitions, which are more curious than useful, we shall only remark, that the word Bury, however differently written, corresponds with the primitive Saxon termination. And though Old Bury field certainly indicates a place that was the site or in the vicinity of a camp or fortification,* yet we have no reason to conclude that there was a military station at Tewkesbury, or that the name was in the least degree dependent on this spot for its termination. On the contrary, we learn that Old Bury is a name

cedent to any habitation here. An opinion founded chiefly on the belief, that the situation of those buildings was generally chosen in the most sequestered parts. But we cannot upon the most mature consideration acquiesce in this opinion, because we believe as well in this instance as many others, that the building of those edifices was not unfrequently induced by the felicity and convenience of the situation.

† An ingenious gentleman supposes, that the name of Tewkesbury may be derived from the rank of duke Dodo and his brother and originally called Dukesbury.

* Vide Rudder's Gloucestershire.

which has been given to meadows or pieces of inclosed ground belonging to religious houses, without the most distant intimation of their having ever been applied to military purposes. † The name also implies the Old Town. Either of which derivations carries a greater degree of probability than the conjectures hazarded, by more general historians.

FOUNDATION OF THE ABBEY—HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE LORDS OF THE MANOR.

QUITTING the boundless field of conjecture, we are now arrived at a period and a subject in which we can be guided by the lights of historical evidence. The path however is still not without asperities and chasms; but the candid and intelligent will make allowances for difficulties not to be surmounted, and for omissions which no industry can supply, in a narrative of transactions, which embraces the long period of eleven hundred years.

In the reigns of Ethelred, Kenred, and Ethelbald, kings of Mercia, there flourished in that division of the island two brothers, Odo and Dodo, no less distinguished for their high rank than for their eminent virtues and pious dispositions. Among other evidences of their zeal for the honour of God, in the year 715† they

† See Williams's Monmouthshire.

‡ According to Stow in 676---where their palace formerly stood as was shewn by the following inscription, which, as Camden asserts, remained there long after :

PANC . AVLAM . RELIAM . DODO . DVX . CONSECRARI
FECIT . IN . ECCLESIAM .

‘This royal palace duke Dodo caused to be consecrated for a church’ and Odo his brother endowed it.

founded a monastery on their own estate at Tewkesbury, and dedicated it to the virgin mother, and endowed it with the manor of Stanway† in Gloucestershire and other possessions, sufficient to maintain a prior and four or five monks, who were of the Benedictin|| order. The founders of this monastery, which afterwards became so famous, died about the year 725, and were buried at Pershore.

In the year 800, Hugh, a nobleman of Mercia, being patron of the priory of Tewkesbury, procured Brictric, king of the West Saxons, (who married the daughter of Offa, a Mercian king) to be buried there, in St. Faith's chapel, where he himself in 812 was also buried, on the north side of the body of the church.

† Leland says, "Odo and Dodo gave to Theokesbyri Staneway cum membris, videlicet, Tadington, Prestecote et Didcot." This estate continued in the abbey of Tewkesbury until the Dissolution; it was then granted by the Crown to William Tracy of Toddington, esq. and his descendants.

|| The order of the Benedictins is the most ancient and the richest order of the monks, from which many other eminent orders have been derived. St. Benedict was born at Nursi in Italy: he instituted his order at Monte Casino in the year 516, and died at that place in 543. There have been of this order, 4 emperors, 12 empresses, 46 kings, and 51 queens. ATKYNS' GLO. p. 1.---The form and colour of the habits of these monks, it is said, were at first left to the direction of the abbots, who varied them according to the season and climate. But it was afterwards ordained, that they should wear a loose gown of black stuff, reaching down to the heels, with a cowl or hood of the same, and a scapulary; under this another habit of the same size, made of white flannel, and boots on their legs. from the colour of their outward habit, they were generally called black monks. Their beds were a mat, some straw, and a pillow. Their covering a blanket and a piece of serge.

GROSE'S ANTIQUITIES.

In the year 980, a nobleman named Haylward Snow, (from his fair complexion) and descended from king Edward the elder, founded a monastery on his own estate at Cranburne in Dorsetshire, and at that time subjected the priory of Tewkesbury, of which he was patron, to the abbey of Cranburne. Historians give him the character of being valiant and generous in his early years, and in his latter, devout. Of his devotion, according to the ideas of the times, he gave a sufficient proof in his founding a monastery. Algar his eldest son by his wife Algive, succeeded him in his estate, whodying, was succeeded by his *son Brietric.

This Brietric being ambassador at the court of Baldwin earl of Flanders, Maud, the earl's daughter fell violently in love with him ; but being slighted she afterwards married William the Conqueror ; and after the Norman conquest, revenge still rankling in her breast for such a slight, and the Conqueror being tempted with his large estate, she worked Brietric's ruin ; who was seized in his manor of Hanley, and sent prisoner to Winchester, where he died without issue, and was there buried. The king afterwards gave Brietric's honour of Gloucester to the queen, who held it for her life ; but she dying in 1083, the king retained it in his own hands. the Conqueror dying in 1087, his son William, surnamed Rufus, (from the colour of his hair) succeeded him, who sometime afterwards gave Brietric's honour of Gloucester† to Robert

* Historians have stated, that Algar died without issue, and was succeeded by his BROTHER Brietric ; but, that Brietric was the son of Algar, appears by many passages in the *Domesday Book*, particularly under the manor of Tewkesbury.

† After the conqueror's death, his third son Henry, claimed his mother's possessions in England, of which king William disseized

Fitz-Hamon, son of Hamon Dentatus lord of Corboile in Normandy, as a reward for the many services he had performed for his late father†.

In the year 1102, the said Robert Fitz-Hamon, at the instance of Sybil his wife and Girald the Abbot of Cranburne, rebuilt Tewkesbury church with all the offices‡, and endowed it with many large possessions, and it being judged that this place exceeded the monastery of Cranburne in fruitfulness of soil and pleasantness of situation, abbot Girald and the monks that year removed to Tewkesbury, leaving only a prior and two monks at Cranburne, to keep up the memory of

him, bestowing them on Robert Fitz-Hamon, son-in-law of Robert de Montgomery earl of Shrewsbury; whereby Henry (afterwards Hen. I. of England) was reduced during his brother's reign to a very narrow subsistence in Normandy.

† Robert Fitz-Hamon, in 1091, made a descent into South-Wales, slew Rhys ap Tewdwr the last prince thereof, and conquered Glamorganshire. His style in his charters runs thus :

“ Sir Robert Fitz-Hamon, by the grace of God, prince of Glamorgan, earl of Corboile, baron of Thorigny and Granville, lord of Glocester, Bristol, Tewkesbury and Cardiff, conqueror of Wales, near kinsman of the king, and general of his highnesses army in France,”

‡ The monastery of Tewkesbury being almost ruined by age and the fury of the wars, was, in 1102, rebuilt, or rather restored and enlarged by Robert Fitz-Hamon, piously designing to make what satisfaction he was able, for the loss the church of Bajeux in Normandy sustained, which Henry I. consumed with fire to free him from prison, but afterwards repenting of the fact, rebuilt it.

“ It cannot,” says William of Malmesbury, “ be easily reported how highly Robert Fitz-Hamon exalted this monastery, wherein the beauty of the buildings ravished the eyes, and the charity of the monks allured the hearts of such folk as used to come thither,”

the founder of that place ; changed the abbey of Cranburne into a priory, and subjected it for the future to the abbey of Tewkesbury. About this period it appears probable, that Tewkesbury began to assume some consequence as a town.

In the re-taking of Falaize in Normandy, Fitz-Hamon was struck on the temple, which deprived him of his senses, and dying soon after, (March 1107,) he was brought over and buried in the chapter-house of Tewkesbury ; but his bones, in 1241, were removed by Robert (the third abbot of that name) into the church, and interred between two Pillars, in a plain tomb above ground, on the right-hand of the chancel. Afterwards Thomas Parker, the eighteenth abbot, in 1397, caused the chapel of carved stone, that now is, to be erected over him, and appointed a mass for the dead to be celebrated every day in memory of this second founder and his wife. Robert Fitz-Hamon left issue by his wife Sybil, four daughters,—Mabel, Hawise, Cecile, and Amice.

King Henry the first, after the death of Robert Fitz-Hamon, being unwilling so great an estate as the honour of Gloucester should be divided amongst females, made Hawise, abbess of Winchester, Cecile, abbess of Shaftsbury, married Amice to the earl of Brittain, and Mabel to his bastard son Robert, whom he created consul and earl of Gloucester,* This earl,

* The following very curious account of King Henry's courting the lady for his son, who at first refused him from his want of a title, is given us by Robert of Gloucester in the following lines :

“ Sir, shee saide, ich wote your herte upon me is,
More for myne heritage, than for myselfe I wis :

every funday in the year, had the abbot of Tewkesbury and twelve of the monks to dine with him. He

And such heritage as ich have, hit weer to mee greet shame
 To take a lorde, but he had any surname :
 Damoseill, quoth the kyng, thou seest well in this case,
 Sir Robert Fitz-Hayme thi fader's name was :
 As fayre a name he thall have, as you may see,
 Sir Robert le Fitz-Roy shall his name be :
 Damoseill, he say'd, thi lorde shall have a name
 For him and for his heires fayre without blame ;
 For Robert erle of Gloucester his name shall be and is
 Hee shall be erle of Gloucester, and his heires I wis
 Iune this forme, quoth shee, ich wole that all my thyng be his."

Robert, natural son of Henry I. was born of Nest, the daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr, prince of South Wales.

All writers agree in giving this young nobleman a most excellent character;—"who had no inconsiderable tincture of learning, and "was the patron of all those who excelled in it: qualities rare "at all times in a nobleman of his high rank, but particularly so in "an age when knowledge and valour were thought incompatible, "and not to be able to read was a mark of nobility." *LYTT. HIST. HEN. II.* vol. i. p 281. Again, "He was unquestionably the "wisest man of those times; and his virtue was such, that even "those times could not corrupt it. If, when the nation was grown "equally tired of Matilda and of Stephen, he had aspired to obtain the crown for himself, he might very possibly have gained it "from both: but he thought it less glorious to be a king, than to "preserve his fidelity and honour inviolate. He seems to have "acted only from the purest and noblest principles of justice and "duty, without pride, without passion, without any private views, "or selfish ambition: and to this, admirable temper of mind he "joined all the address and extensive abilities, that are particularly necessary for the head of a party, who must connect and "keep together a great number of independent persons. Told by

rebuilt * great part of the castle in Bristol, and gave every tenth stone towards the building of a chapel to the virgin Mary in the priory of St. James' in Bristol, which he had founded and subjected to the abbey of Tewkesbury. He also re-built the castle of Caerdiff, and died, the 31st of October 1147, of a fever at Gloucester, and was buried at Bristol, in the choir of St. James's priory, under a tomb of green jasper. In his time, anno 1139, Walleran de Beaumont, a younger son of the earl of Leicester, and count of Meulant, ransacked Tewkesbury, taking immense spoils: a proof of the extent and opulence of the town at that period. He spared, however, the goods of the abbey church. Robert left issue, by the said Mabel his wife, four sons,—William, Roger, Haman, and Philip; and one daughter named Maud.

William, his son and heir, succeeded him; who married Hawise the daughter of the earl of Leicester. This earl William confirmed all the charters, &c. which his ancestors had granted to Tewkesbury, and added some new endowments. He died in November 1183, † and was buried in the abbey of Keynsham, in Somersetshire, which he had founded in memory of his son Robert, who died in 1166. It appears he had another son named Roger, who took orders and became a bishop. He had three daughters,—Mabel, Amice, and Isabel.

* Camden was certainly erroneous in asserting, that Robert, earl of Gloucester, was the founder of the castle of Bristol; for in 1088, it was spoken of by Roger Hoveden as "*Caltrum fortissimum.*" i. e. A very strong castle.

Isabel, the youngest, and with her the earldom of Gloucester, lordship of Tewkesbury, &c. were bestowed by king Richard on his brother John, earl of Cornwall, surnamed Lackland, and afterwards king of England. He built the long bridge at Tewkesbury, and gave the whole toll of his market there for the repair of it. Soon after his accession to the crown in 1199, having no issue, he divorced Isabel for barrenness; and in 1213 gave her in marriage (some say sold her for 20000 marks) to Geoffry de Mandeville, earl of Essex, but retained in his own hands the town of Bristol, and the Gloucestershire estate, part of her inheritance, till the year 1215 when he resigned those territories to Geoffry, who was killed at a tournament in London the next year. Isabel, in the same king's reign, and with his consent, married Hugh de Burgh, chief justice of England; and in or about 1218 died without issue, whereby the honour of Gloucester came to her nephew—

Almeric Montfort, son of the earl of D'Evereaux in Normandy, by Mabel, eldest daughter of earl William. He married Milicent, the daughter of Hugh Gournai, and died in or about the year 1221, without issue, and was buried at Keynsham;

Whereupon Gilbert de Clare, son and heir of Richard de Clare * earl of Hertford, who married Amice the second daughter of the said earl William,

* Richard was descended from Richard de Clare, who came over with William the Conqueror, and was eldest son to the earl of Brian in Normandy. The elder Richard was one of the chief justices of England in that King's reign, and was possessed of 38 manors in Surry, 35 in Essex, 3 in Cambridgeshire, 2 in Kent, 1 in Middlesex, 1 in Wilts, 1 in Devonshire, and 95 in Suffolk whereof Clare was the principal.

was admitted to the honours of Gloucester and Glamorgan, and the lordships annexed, as his legal inheritance. He was the first earl of Gloucester and Hertford, both which earldoms he held jointly. He resided at Holme-Castle, (which was situated on an eminence at the S. W. end of the town of Tewkesbury, *) and married Isabel, daughter of William Marshall, earl of Pembroke. This earl Gilbert, in 1230, gave to Tewkesbury abbey the Mythe wood; and, dying the same year, was buried in the middle of the chancel of Tewkesbury church; leaving issue by his said wife, three sons and two daughters,—Richard, William, Gilbert, Agnes, and Isabel. His countess afterwards married Richard, brother to king Henry the third, and was buried at Beaulieu in Hampshire; but her heart she ordered to be sent in a silver cup to her brother, then abbot of Tewkesbury, to be there interred before the high altar.

Richard de Clare the second, eldest son and heir of Gilbert, succeeded his father in titles and estate, and

* There are no remains of this castle now extant. Leland says, “the tyme of the building of it is oncerteyne. It is certeyne that the *Clares* Erles of *Glocester*, and especially the redde erle lay much at *Holme*. There hath beene yn tyme of mynd (i. e. in memory) sum Partes of the Castel stonding. Now sum Ruines of the Botoms of Waulles appere. Now it is caullid *Holme Hylle*.” The period of its destruction labours under the same unfortunate predicament with the building. But we may be assured it was an early structure. The name imports it to have been of Saxon origin; and it is reasonable to suppose, that Robert, first earl of Gloucester, resided at this castle, as it is said (p. 26.) that he had, every Sunday in the year, the Abbot and Monks of Tewkesbury to dine with him. And it is not improbable, that it was devastated with other castles and buildings by the exasperated and rebellious barons, before or after the attainder of Hugh le Despenser, the younger, who was possessed of the lordship of Tewkesbury.

married Maud the earl of Lincoln's daughter. This earl Richard kept his Christmas at Tewkesbury, and made a feast at which were present sixty knights. He died July 14, 1262. * His bowels were buried at Canterbury, his heart in the church of Tunbridge in Kent, and his body on the right hand of his father in Tewkesbury abbey; where were present the bishops of Worcester and Landaff, twelve abbots, and a great number of barons, knights, and other noblemen; and afterwards his countess embellished his tomb with gold, silver, and precious stones, and set up his effigy in silver, with the sword and spurs which he used when alive. He left issue by his wife Maud, three sons and three daughters,—Gilbert, Thomas, Benedict, Isabel, Margaret, and Rose. †

Gilbert de Clare the second, surnamed the Red, (from the colour of his hair,) succeeded his father Richard in titles and estate, at the age of seventeen years; and about 13 E. 1. was divorced from Alice de March, daughter of Guy earl of Angoulesme and niece to king Henry the third, to whom he was married in his father's life time. He afterwards married Joan de Acres, daughter of king Edward the first. This earl Gilbert, according to Leland, dealt hardly with the monks of Tewkesbury, and took away the gifts of Gilbert, his grandfather; but they were afterwards restored by Gilbert

* In the yere 1262, Richarde Counte de Glocestre heyng with king Henry, in Fraunce, dyed of a Febre quartane, and was buried at Tukesbyri Abbay, where aboute his tumber was wryten his noble actes.

LELAND'S COLLECT. vol. i, p. 456.

† Willis speaks of Richard de Clare the second having a son, named Richard, who died in 1292.

the third. He died at his castle of Monmouth, 7th December 1295, and was buried at Tewkesbury on the left hand of his grandfather, under a plain stone, with an inscription on brass round the edges; leaving issue one son and three daughters,—Gilbert, Eleanor, Margaret, and Elizabeth. His only son Gilbert being then a child, Joan de Acres, his relict, kept possession of the inheritance of the Clares in Gloucestershire, and her second husband, Ralph de Monthermer, had the title of earl of Gloucester till her death in 1307.

Gilbert de Clare the third, son of the last earl Gilbert, was the next who possessed the earldom of Gloucester, lordship of Tewkesbury, &c. and married Maud, daughter of John de Burgh or Berrow, earl of Ulster; he had issue John who died young, much lamented, and was buried with his ancestors. The line of the Clares ended in this earl, who fell at the battle of Bannockburn near Striveling in Scotland, 25th June, 1314, in the twenty-third year of his age.* His body was

* By the Inquisition taken after the death of Gilbert de Clare, who was killed at Bannockburn, 7 E. 2. it appears he was possessed of a park here, containing eighty acres, whose underwood and herbage were worth 30s a year; of 460 acres of arable land at 4¹/₂ an acre; of 85 acres and a half of meadow at 2s; and of 50 acres of pasture at 1s an acre; of the rent of free tenants, 12l 12s 3d; of a mill worth 20s; of De-la-Home Farm, *IN MANU CUSTOMARIA*, which paid 11s 8d; of a messuage which the chaplain of Ashchurch held, worth 5s; of a messuage which Walter ----- held, worth 4s; and of the More farm, worth 46s a year: that there were two churches, one the church of St. Andrew and the other

conveyed to Tewkesbury and buried in the Virgin Mary's chapel, now demolished; on the left hand of his father, whose injustice to the monks he had repaired. The lady Maud, his countess, died the 2d of July 1315, and was buried on the left hand of her husband. He left no surviving issue, whereby his said three sisters became his heirs, and the earldoms of Gloucester and Hereford were divided. Eleanor, the eldest, who was married (1321) to Hugh Despenfer the younger, succeeded her brother in the third part of his estate, and was first countess of Gloucester, and the patronage of the church of Tewkesbury fell to her share.

This Hugh Despenfer, the younger, was lord chamberlain and chief favourite of Edward the second after Gaveston. Being accused, with his father, of seducing the king and oppressing the state, he was, by the queen's orders, without trial, drawn on a hurdle through the streets of Hereford, (29th November 1326) hanged on a gallows fifty feet high, beheaded and quartered; his four quarters were sent to different parts of the kingdom, and his head fixed upon London bridge. Some parts of his body were privately buried in Tewkesbury church, by the lavatory of the high altar. Hugh Despenfer * left issue by his wife three sons,—

stallage: that there were 47 customary lands and a half, every one of which was a virgate, and held in villeinage: that the total value of the whole manor, with the burg, was 131l 5s 6d: that there were two views of frank-pledge, at Michaelmas and Easter. and the certain fines were 7l 12s: that the pleas and perquisites of the court were worth 100s.; the toll of the burg 100s; and the pleas and perquisites of the said burg, by itself, 100s. per annum.

* Hugh Despenfer the younger, at his death, possessed 59 manors, 28000 sheep, 1000 oxen, 1200 kine, 40 mares, 160 horses,

Hugh, Edward, and Gilbert. After his death his widow married the lord William le Zouch, * by whom she had Hugh le Zouch. William lord le Zouch died the first of March 1335, and was buried in the middle of the Virgin Mary's chapel. She died in June 1337; whereupon Hugh de Audley, her sister Margaret's husband, was created earl of Gloucester.

However, Hugh le Despenser the third, son of Hugh by Eleanor, succeeded him in the inheritance of Hanley Castle, Tewkesbury, Fairford, &c. (which we find from this time disunited from the Honour of Gloucester) and married Elizabeth, widow of Giles de Badlesmere, and daughter of William de Montacute, earl of Salisbury. This earl, amongst other good gifts, appropriated the church of Lanttrifant to the abbot and convent in succession, from which they received 50 marks annually. He died without issue, the 13th of February 1349, and was buried at Tewkesbury, on the right side of the high altar. Elizabeth, his wife, afterwards married Guy D'O'Brien, † knight, who lies

2000 hogs, 3000 bullocks, 40 tuns of wine, 600 bacon, 80 carcasses of Martinmas beef, 600 muttons in his larder, 10 tuns of cyder, 36 sacks of wool, and a library of books, besides in armour, plate, jewels, and money, to the value of 10000*l.* and upwards. One of the ancestors of the Despenser family was steward to William the Conqueror; and from him are descended the present dukes of Marlborough.

* William lord le Zouch of Haringworth, was descended from the earls of Bretagne. But, in another account, 'tis said, that this William le Zouch was not of the family of the Zouch's, of Haringworth, but one of the Mortimer's, surnamed la Zouch from his seat.

† It is said, that Guy D'O'Brien was of the Thomond family, in Ireland, and that, in the reign of Edward the third, he was a

buried in a tomb in the aisle near the high altar, in St. Margaret's chapel. * This Guy D'O'Brien appropriated certain rents in Bristol to the office of sacrist in Tewkesbury monastery; and to the priest who should say the first mass for the said Guy every day, at the altar of St. Margaret, in Tewkesbury church, with these prayers, *God of his mercy, &c.* for his surviving kindred; and, *Incline, O Lord, &c.* for the dead kindred; the mass of the *Trinity* on Sunday; the mass of the *Holy Ghost*, on Monday; the mass of *St. Thomas* on Tuesday; the mass of the *Holy Rest* on Wednesday; the mass of *Ascension* on Thursday; the mass of the *Holy Cross* on Friday; the mass of *St. Mary* on Saturday, twenty-one pence weekly: to him who should celebrate mass on his anniversary, or on the anniversary of his wife Elizabeth, if the abbot 5s. if the prior, 3s. 4d. to him who should read the gospel, to the reader of the epistle, to him who should hold the paten, and to the precentor and his two assistants, 8d. a piece; to the prior, 12d.; and to every monk, 4d. He departed this life in 1390, but Elizabeth died many years before, 1359; whereupon her whole dowry, including Hanley castle, Tewkesbury manor, Malvern chace, &c. devolved to her first husband's nephew, the eldest son of—

Edward le Despenser, second son of Hugh the younger, who died before his elder brother Hugh; and

knight of the garter, and admiral of his majesty's fleet westward. But, another account says, Elizabeth did not marry one of the Thomond family, but lord Guy de Brien of Castle-Walwaine, in Pembroke-shire, who bore not the arms of the Irish O'Briens, but more probably of British extraction, from a noble family in Devonshire, whose name Tor-Brien, preserves to this day.

* St. Margaret's chapel, commonly called O'Brien's chapel.

having married Anne the daughter of lord Ferrers, left issue by her four sons,—Edward, Thomas, Henry, and Gilbert.

Edward the second, * his eldest son, succeeded to the estate of his uncle Hugh, and married Elizabeth, daughter of the lord Bartholomew de Burghurft, lord chamberlain to king Edward III. He commanded the rear of the English army in 1373, during their most fatiguing and perilous march from Calais to Bourdeaux. This Edward gave a gold cup to the monastery, and a precious jewel (says the chronicle,) neatly contrived to hold the sacrament on solemn days, His eldest son, named Edward, died in his youth, at Caerdiff, but was conveyed to Tewkesbury, where he was buried with his ancestors, and an infant brother and sister, Edward deceased in 1375, leaving issue by his said wife, a son named Thomas, and three daughters,—Elizabeth, Anne, and Margaret; and was buried on the south side of Tewkesbury church, before the vestry door near the chancel; where his wife, in memory of him, built the chapel of the Holy Trinity. The effigies of this warrior is placed at the top of the chapel, in a kneeling posture, with the arms of the Despensers painted on his surcoat. Elizabeth, his countess, † continued in widowhood for 33 years; and kept for her dowry the lordships of Hanley, Tewkesbury, Fairford, &c. till her death in 1409, when they fell to her grandson, Richard; his father Thomas le

* This Edward was made knight of the garter, and summoned to parliament among the barons, 31 Edw. III.

† She assumed not the title of countess: In her last will she only styles herself Dame le Despenser, DUG. BAR.

Despenfer having been beheaded, 1 Hen. IV. She was buried at Tewkesbury, on the left hand of her husband, under a marble stone. Elizabeth (amongst other things) gave to the monastery, a suit of scarlet vestments, embroidered with lions of gold, viz. one coat with three royal robes and white vestments, and fifteen mantles or copes. Thomas le Despenfer married Constance, daughter of Edmund de Langley, duke of York, and was created earl of Gloucester, by Richard II. in respect of his descent from Eleanor, the wife of Hugh Despenfer, the younger. Having joined with other noblemen to dethrone Henry IV. and being taken at Bristol, he was there attainted and executed, 1 Hen. IV. 1400. He was afterwards buried in the middle of the choir in Tewkesbury church, under a lamp that burned before the host ; leaving issue one son and one daughter,—Richard and Isabel.

Richard le Despenfer, son of Thomas, and his wife Constance, died in 1414, at or about eighteen years of age, when he was in guardianship to Edmund duke of York, who had married him to Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Ralph Nevil, earl of Westmoreland. He left no issue ; and was buried at Tewkesbury, on the left hand of his father.

Isabel, his sister, succeeded to the title and estates. She was married at Tewkesbury, in 1411, by Thomas Parker, the eighteenth abbot. to Richard Beauchamp,* the fourth of that name, lord Abergavenny, afterwards earl of Worcester, son and heir of William lord Beauchamp ; who, in right of his wife, had livery of the

* The family of the Beauchamps was descended from Hugh de Beauchamp, who came into England with William the Conqueror.

manor of Tewkesbury, 2 Hen. V. This Richard Beauchamp, the 18th of March 1421, at the siege of Meusenbry, (Meaux-en-Brie) in France, was struck on his side by a stone cast from a sling, and soon after died without male* issue, and was buried at Tewkesbury the 25th of April following, at the bottom of the choir, between the pillars near the founder's chapel, where the lady Isabel, his countess and widow, built a chapel in 1438, in memory of him to Mary Magdalen, † which was painted with the pictures of our Saviour and the twelve Apostles, and many coats of arms, which are now defaced. Afterwards, by a dispensation from the pope, she married his cousin german, Richard Beauchamp,, the fifth earl of Warwick, who was governor of France and Normandy, under king Henry VI. and died at the city of Roan, in 1439, but was buried the same year at Warwick; leaving issue by his said wife Isabel, one son and one daughter,—Henry and Anne. The lady Isabel settled lands of 300 marks a year on the church and abbey of Tewkesbury, for the support of six additional monks. She died the 26th of December 1439, and gave by her will to Tewkesbury church, all her jewels and other ornaments of her head and body, reckoned worth 300 marks; and procured the church of Tarrande, in the diocese of Salisbury, and the church of Penmarthe, in the diocese of Landaffe, to be also appropriated to this abbey. She ordered four masses to be said in the new chapel she had founded, for the good of her soul, and the souls of her ancestors and successors; and bequeathed to each of the priests who

* He left issue one daughter, Elizabeth, who was ancestress of a long line of lords Abergavenny, not yet extinct.

† Mary Magdalen's chapel, now commonly called 'Spenser's chapel.

should officiate 2s. to be paid weekly. She also confirmed all the privileges granted by her ancestors, and was buried with great funeral pomp, at Tewkesbury, near the chapel * she had built, at the right hand of her father, 13th January 1439, (under a carved marble stone) by Thomas Plufford, bishop of Hereford, her confessor; and the lords William Bristow, abbot of Tewkesbury, and John abbot of Winchcomb.

Henry Beauchamp, earl of Warwick son of Richard, by Isabel the heiress of the Despenfer family, was about fourteen years old at his father's death. He was crowned king of the Isle of Wight by king Henry VI. and at the age of nineteen was created duke of Warwick, and declared premier earl of England. He had the castle of Bristol given him, and also the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, † and the patronage of the church and priory of St. Mary Magdalen, of Goldcliff, ‡ with licence to annex it to the church of

* Her first husband, the earl of Worcester, was buried under that chapel; but it appears from the inscription, that she was buried within the choir, on the right side (or to the south) of her father, the earl of Gloucester; who was deposited in the middle of the choir, under a lamp which burned before the host, consequently very near the high altar.

DUG. MONAST.

† It is said that Henry had no more than a reversionary grant of the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, after the death of Humphrey, duke of Gloucester; but he did not survive that duke.

‡ Robert de Chandos, in the reign of king Henry the first, in 1113, founded a priory at Goldcliff, in Monmouthshire, the patron whereof was for many ages in the crown, 'till the suppression of alien priories, when king Henry VI. granted it to the duke of Warwick, and (1442) the priory to the abbey of Tewkesbury. But we learn that the Cambro-Britains were so offended at this measure, that they obliged the prior and monks of Tewkesbury to

Tewkesbury. Henry confirmed all privileges granted to the church of Tewkesbury by his ancestors; gave all the ornaments he wore to make vestments for the monastery; and died the 11th of June 1446, in the twenty-second year of his age, at his castle at Hanley, and was buried in the middle of Tewkesbury choir. He had issue by his wife Cecily, daughter of the earl of Salisbury, one daughter,—Anne, who died in her infancy; whereby Anne, his sister, became his sole heiress.

Anne was married to Richard Nevil, earl of Salisbury, † who now, in right of his wife, succeeded to the vast united inheritance of the Despensers and Beauchamps. On this occasion he was created earl of Warwick, and generally called *The Stout Earl of Warwick*, and *King Maker*; for king Henry VI. and king Edward IV. held the crown by turns, as this earl favoured or opposed. He was killed at the battle of Barnet Field, fighting for the house of Lancaster, April 14, 1471. This champion being no more, the decisive and mur-

quit Goldcliff, in 1445, but in the following year they returned. In the 29 Hen. VI. it was granted to the College at Eaton: but in 1 Edw. IV. it was returned to Tewkesbury, and in the 7th year of the same reign, again to the College, by which it has been retained. Goldcliff, 26 Hen. VIII. was rated at 144l. 8s. 1d. per annum. Robert de Chandos died in 1120, and was a great benefactor to this abbey.

See WILLIAMS'S MONMOUTH.

† This Richard Nevil was descended from Gilbert de Nevil, who came into England with William the Conqueror, and whose descendants were earls of Westmoreland; but Richard, the father of this Richard, having married Alice, the daughter and heir of Thomas de Montacute, earl of Salisbury, he was created earl of Salisbury.

derous battle of Tewkesbury, fought on the 4th of May following, secured the crown to Edward IV. and produced a new order of affairs.—A contest so dreadful and so intimately connected with the history of this place, demands a particular account, which is thrown into Part II. that the order of narrative may not here be interrupted.

Edward IV. confirmed all the privileges granted by his ancestors to Tewkesbury church, as well as the charter of fishing in the Severn and Avon, granted by Warwick. After the fall of this renowned earl, Anne, his countess, was forced to abscond, and was reduced to great distress. King Edward would have seized on her estates had not her daughters (Isabel and Anne) been his sisters-in-law; but he put those ladies in possession of them all, by a partition of the inheritance between them, and an act of parliament in 1473, confirmed that allotment. Poor countess Anne was afterwards taken and thrown into prison, by her son-in-law, king Richard III.

1472. Isabel, the elder of those daughters, married George, duke of Clarence, (brother to king Edward IV.) and had the manor of Tewkesbury included in her share. She died in child-bed the 22d of December 1476, aged 25, at Warwick, and her body was brought to Tewkesbury on the 4th day of January following: the lord John Strensham, abbot of Tewkesbury, with other abbots in their habits, and the whole convent, received her body in the middle of the choir, and the funeral office was performed by the lord abbot and the rest of the abbots, with the whole convent, in nine lessons; afterwards the funeral office was performed by the suffragans of the bishops of Worcester and Landaffe, and by the dean and chaplains of the

duke; and the vigils were observed by the duke's own family 'till the next day, which was the vigil of the Epiphany. The suffragan of the bishop of Landaff * celebrated the first mass of St. Mary, in St. Mary's chapel; the second mass of the Trinity was celebrated by the lord abbot, at the altar; the suffragan of the bishop of Worcester celebrated the third mass, of eternal rest, at which Peter Weld, doctor of divinity, and of the order of the Minors at Worcester, preached a sermon in the choir, before the prelates; and mass being ended, the body was left under the herse, † in the middle of the choir, for thirty-five days; and those solemn obsequies were daily performed, during that time, in the convent. Her body was buried in a vault behind the high altar, before the door of the virgin Mary's chapel, and opposite the door of St. Edmund the martyr's chapel. George, duke of Clarence, who derived from his wife Isabel, the title of earl of Warwick and Salisbury, suffered, about twelve months after, a private execution in the tower.—The circumstance of his being drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine, mentioned in most of our chronicles, is treated in general as fabulous. He was buried at Tewkesbury, and left issue one son ‡ and one daughter,—Edward and Margaret.

* Lincoln.

ATKINS.

† A fabriek reared in the church. Moveable hereses were not known 'till long after the dissolution of Monasteries, not even in the reign of Edw. VI.

COLLINS'S PEER.

‡ Leland says, George duke of Clarence had another son, who was named Richard, and was born in the monastery. He was poisoned, as 'tis reported, the year his mother died, 1476,

Edward Plantagenet, entitled earl of Warwick, and heir of Tewkesbury, was seized and imprisoned by his tyrannic uncle, Richard the third, in the beginning of his reign; removed to safer custody in the tower, by his cautious cousin, Henry the seventh; and most inhumanly beheaded, in 1499, for a pretended conspiracy, when about twenty-five years old; the king having for some time viewed him with a jealous eye, as being the only heir male of the house of York. This innocent youth had been stripped of all his inheritance ten years before, by a resumption which justice was said to demand, in favour of his unfortunate grandmother Anne, countess of Warwick and Salisbury.—The above-mentioned act of parliament was repealed, and by a statute, 3 Hen. VII. it was enacted, that all the estates, of which that countess had been disseized, and which against the order of Nature, had been shared between her daughters, should be restored to the said countess, with power to alien all or any part thereof. The meaning of this pious act of restitution soon appeared; for the old countess was obliged, in the very same year, to execute a feoffment, whereby she granted and conveyed to the king, and his issue male, in perpetuity, all the restored estates, viz. Warwick, and twelve other manors in Warwickshire; the city of Worcester, Hanley, Upton-upton-Severn, Elmley-Castle. Wich, and thirteen other manors in Worcestershire; Tewkesbury, Fairford, and twelve other manors in Gloucestershire; Glamorgan, &c. in Wales; Walsall, and four other manors in Staffordshire; Barnard-Castle in the bishoprick of Durham; considerable lordships and estates in sixteen other counties; together with the isles of Guernsey, Jersey, and Sark. This was a base and selfish manœuvre of Henry the seventh, unnoticed by his historians. Thus he reduced to a state of dependence and

poverty; the children of the house of Clarence, under pretence of restitution to their grandmother, and yet without entrusting power in the hands of the old countess; to whom he assigned the little manor of Sutton, in Warwickshire, and what further pension is uncertain, for her meagre maintenance during life.

Margaret, his sister, was wedded to sir Richard Pole, and was beheaded 33 Hen. VIII. * upon an act of attainder, passed against her for corresponding with her son, cardinal Reginald Pole, then declared a rebel and an enemy to his country.

Anne, the youngest daughter of Richard Nevil, earl of Salisbury and Warwick, was first married to Edward, prince of Wales, son of king Henry the sixth, who being taken prisoner at the battle of Tewkesbury, was murdered by Richard, duke of Gloucester, with assistants. She afterwards married the said duke of Gloucester, and had issue by him, Edward prince of Wales, who died in 1484, aged eleven years, and not long before his mother, who is said to have been poisoned by her husband Richard, to facilitate his intended marriage with his niece Elizabeth, daughter to king Edward the fourth, and afterwards queen to king Henry the seventh.

From this time, (1488) the lordship of Tewkesbury was annexed to the crown, till 1 Edw. VI. (1547) when it was granted to sir Thomas Seymour, who held it till his attainder, when it reverted back again, and continued vested in the crown till March 22, 1609, the

* For particulars relative to the dissolution of the Abbey of Tewkesbury in this reign, see Part II.

seventh of James I. when that monarch, in consideration of the sum of 2453l 7s. 4½d. by his letters patent then dated, granted *inter alia*, to the corporation of Tewkesbury, the *manor* and *borough* of this place, and the same now remains in their possession.

ABBAY CHURCH—INSCRIPTIONS AND COATS OF ARMS.

Here in the rich, the honour'd, fam'd and great,
See the false scale of happiness complete. POPE.

THE foundation of the Abbey, and its successive possessors, have already been traced. It acquired great and deserved celebrity among those establishments, which pious zeal, or gloomy superstition, raised to propitiate the Supreme; and at the time of its dissolution, it was rich and flourishing. But when providence converted the vilest passions that could disgrace the prince, into instruments of good to his people, and to the cause of pure religion, this pile was devoted to ruin with other structures of the same kind. Indeed, according to Willis, its destruction was most rapid and complete, having been burnt down by the king's visitors, in revenge, as it is said, for the ineffectual opposition they at first experienced from the monks. In this conflagration the cloisters, abbacy, chapter-house, the lady chapel, and other appendages were consumed.

At present there are few vestiges of the ancient grandeur, the gateway alone excepted, which is large

and handsome, rising to a considerable height, and embattled at top. Willis, in his View of Mitred Abbeys, calls this the prison house; but it is uncertain whether it ever was applied to that purpose. The arch is finely proportioned, and is much admired by connoisseurs. It now lies in a state of unregarded dilapidation.

But though the abbey was doomed to fall, the liberality and piety of the inhabitants, to whom the body of the abbey church belonged, prompted them to rescue the chancel, steeple, bells, and church-yard, from profanation and ruin; for it appears by a grant made 34 Hen. VIII. that they purchased those appendages at the expense of 483l.

Thus the church was saved; but the revenues, which in part at least ought to have been applied to the decent maintenance of a minister, were wholly alienated; and for some time this was only an inconsiderable curacy. However it is now presented to by the crown as a vicarage; and by various augmentations it has risen to near 300l. *per ann.* though it has neither parsonage house nor glebe. The present incumbent is the Rev. Robert Knight, who succeeded the late worthy and lamented Rev. James Tatterfall.

This church, which is included in the deanry of Winchcomb, stands on the S. W. side of the town, near the entrance from Gloucester and Cheltenham; and was consecrated, according to the best information, by Theulph or Theowold, a prebendary of Bajeux in Normandy, and the bishops of Hereford, Glamorgan and Dublin, in 1121.

It is built in the form of a cross, upon the intersection of which stands the tower, supported by four

arches; and is a most magnificent and beautiful edifice. From its massive cylindrical pillars, semicircular arches, zig-zag mouldings, and other decorations, it appears to be of the Saxon or early Norman era of architecture. The tower * is also in the same noble stile, except the pinnacles, which were added about the commencement of the last century.

The Dimensions of this Pile are as follow :

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Length from east to west | 300 feet. † |
| —— of the great cross aisle | 120 |
| Breadth of the choir and side aisles .. | 70 |
| —— west front | 100 |
| Height from the area to the roof .. | 120 |
| —— of the tower | 132 |

The usual entrance is on the north side, through a lofty and spacious portal, inclosed by gates of iron rails, over which is a much-defaced image of the Virgin Mary, the patroness of the church. The arch which forms the west entrance, is singularly beautiful, and much admired; and from this the internal view is awfully grand; but the sublime effect of the entire perspective is diminished, by the position of the organ, which intercepts it: the only defect, perhaps, which the eye of taste can perceive in the modern embellishments.

* According to Leland, part of the religious edifices at Tewkesbury were built with stone brought from Prestbury near Cheltenham. He also adds, that the materials of the tower were said to have been imported from Caen in Normandy.

† Before the demolition of the Virgin Mary or Lady Chapel, the building was nearly 100 feet longer.

The area consists of a grand principal aisle or nave, a transept or cross aisle, and two spacious side aisles, which are somewhat lower than the body, and separated from the nave by two rows of massive pillars. There is also a handsome semicircular aisle surrounding the chancel, from the north to the south ends of the transept, in which are the vestry (where the abbey records were formerly kept,) several recesses, and chapels, dedicated to the founder, benefactors, and other persons of distinction, and some Gothic tombs, of splendid execution.

The pewing of the church was till lately extremely irregular, and very unworthy of such a noble fabric; but, by the munificence and public spirited exertions of the inhabitants and the representatives of the borough, aided by liberal donations, that defect has been wholly removed; and the part appropriated to divine worship, fitted up in a stile of singular elegance, yet perfectly according with the architecture of the building, and the purpose for which it was designed. The uniformity, convenience and disposition of the seats, the peculiarly light and elegant construction of the pulpit, and the *tout ensemble* of the choir, challenge admiration, and almost defy competition.

The designs for these improvements were the production of our very ingenious townsman, Mr. Edward Edgecumbe now resident at Ellesmere in Shropshire, to whom the Editor owes many acknowledgements for his friendly communications; and were carried into execution by that able architect, Mr. J. Keyte of Kidderminster. Their performances here will be a lasting testimony of the talents of both, in their respective professions.

The chancel, which is now included in the choir, is supported by six pillars, over which are seven large windows of painted glass, charged with coats of arms, effigies of the earls of Gloucester, &c. *

The organ now placed over the entrance of the choir, as already mentioned, was first erected by the parishioners in 1737. It originally belonged to a college in Oxford; but its powers have been recently increased; and for beauty and tone, is not unworthy of its destination.

The entire roof of this venerable fabric is vaulted with stone, highly ornamented by the tracery of its ribs, the intersections of which are embellished by carvings—whimsical, emblematical, and scriptural. The external covering is of lead.

On the outside of the south wall is a very beautiful arch now closed, which opened a communication between the south aisle and the abbacy and cloisters. From the stile of the remaining arches in the side walls, the latter appear to have been extremely handsome.

* The two opposite windows at the entrance are divided into four compartments each, in which are the figures, in armour, of eight earls of Gloucester, distinguished by their arms. In the next window on the right, is the prophet Daniel; and on the left, Jeremiah. In the middle window king Solomon; next to him on the right, the prophet Joel; on the left a scutcheon per pale, 1. *Argent, a lion rampant sable.* 2. *Quarterly argent and gules, in the 2d and 3d a fret Or, over all on a bend sable three escallops of the first,* for le Despenfer. There are besides in these windows, 1. The arms of the Clares, *Or, three chevrons gules.* 2. Those of the abbey *Gules, a cross Or.* 3. *Argent, five bars azure.* 4. *Barry undy Argent and Gules, a baton in bend azure,* for D'Amory. 5. *A lion sable crown'd Or.* 6. *Azure, a lion rampant gardant Or,* for Fitz-Hamon. 7. *Gules, ten bezants,* for le Zouch.

On the north side of the aisle surrounding the chancel, is a large building, for many years occupied as the public grammar school, and which appears to have once opened into the chancel. This may be reasonably conjectured to have been the chapter-house. Its stone pillars, its vaulted ceiling and mural arches, retain sufficient vestiges of their original beauty, though in many places very much mutilated and defaced.

It is farther proper to add, that the tower contains eight musical bells and a set of chimes. The church-yard is of considerable extent, and ornamented with walks, shaded by rows of chestnut and other trees.

Celebrated as this church is for its antiquity and beauty, it is no less venerable for the dust of the princely and the great, which it encloses within its walls. Many of the monuments, and particularly the inscriptions, have been lost by criminal negligence, or defaced by civil commotions; but enough remain to prove, that it is still pre-eminently distinguished in this respect, as the following notices will shew.

Antient Monuments, Inscriptions, &c,

Robert Fitz-Hamon (who built this church) was buried in the chapter-house, in 1107, but removed into the church in 1241, where his bones were laid in a tomb of grey marble, * which had brasses on the top,

* During the late improvements in the church, this tomb was opened; at the head was found a stone about two feet and a half in length, which was hollowed to receive a circular sheet of lead, inclosing one arm and two thigh bones, most undoubtedly those of the founder.

with his figure and ornaments, long since torn off. Abbot Parker inclosed the tomb in a chapel, now standing on the north side of the chancel, and round the top were these words, not legible now:

*In hac capella jacet dns. Robertus filius Hamonis, bujus
loci Fundator.*

In this chapel lies lord Robert, son of Hamon, of this place the Founder.

Near the above is Mary Magdalen's, or Spenser's Chapel, with a very beautiful carved roof, apparently supported by six small marble pillars, of which two only are entire. This curious chapel was ornamented with delineations of our Saviour and his Apostles, and with numerous coats of arms, but they are now nearly obliterated. Round the upper part of the wall, within and without, is written—

*Mementote domine Isabelle le Despenfer comitisse de Warre-
wick que hanc capellam fundavit in bonorum Beatæ Marie
Magdalene et obiit Londiniis apud Minores Anno Domini
MCCCCXXXIX die sancti Johannis euangelistæ et sepulta in
choro in dextram patris sui cujus animæ parcat Deus Amen.*

In memory of lady Isabella le Despenfer, countess of Warwick, who founded this chapel in honour of the blessed Mary Magdalen; and died at London, in the Minories, on the day of Saint John the Evangelist, A. D. 1439, and was buried in the choir at the right hand of her father, on whose Soul may God have mercy. Amen.

On the same side, under a canopy of very curious arched work of four stories, gradually diminishing, and finishing at top in one arch, highly ornamented in the Gothic taste, are the effigies of lord and lady Despenfer, (generally understood to be the duke and duchess of Clarence,) lying at full length, and sculptured in white marble.

On the south side of the chancel is the chapel of the Holy Trinity ; erected to the memory of Edward Despenfer, by Elizabeth his wife. His effigy in armour is placed on the top, in a supplicating posture, having the arms of the Despenfers painted on the surcoat.

The roof of this chapel, and that of the founder's are extremely neat ; the walls of which, no doubt, as well as those of the other chapels, were once highly ornamented. But the ravages of time, and the depredations of tasteless workmen, have nearly defaced the whole.

A coffin, formed of a single stone, was some few years since dug up near this chapel, and is supposed to have been the receptacle for the body of this lord Despenfer ; which, when found, was in a state of excellent preservation.

In the aisle surrounding the chancel, and opposite the monument of lord and lady Despenfer, under another arch of hollow work, is the tomb of Guy D'O'Brien, second husband of lady Despenfer, with his figure recumbent, in armour, with this bearing : on the right *three piles en point*, and on the left, *three lozenges* ; the piles being the arms of the Obrien's, and the lozenges of the Montacute's.

Near the above, and almost opposite the chapel called faint Edmund's the martyr, under a monument of arched work, is the figure of an emaciated monk, lying on a shroud. This monument is covered with a large profusion of rich Gothic ornaments, and is said to have been erected by John Wich, alias Wakeman, the last abbot of Tewkesbury, and the first bishop of Gloucester.

In the same aisle, in a little chapel near that of the Holy Trinity, lies, as it is said, Robert Fortington, 12th abbot of this place, who died in 1253. Over it are these arms carved in stone, *A chevron between three escallops, over all a palmer's staff in pale.*

Willis says, "under this arch are the effigies of a man lying in full proportion, which is said to have been for Robert Fortington, abbat of this place,"—but no figure is now existing, though it is probable there was one.

Nearly opposite to the above, is an ancient altar-monument of grey marble, on the top of which is a cross carved; and round the verge, which was inlaid with brass, is this inscription:

IOHANNES. ABBAS. PVIVS. LOCI.

JOHN, ABBOT OF THIS PLACE.

In the south wall near the vestry door, is the tomb of Alan, one of the abbots of this monastery. On the west end is inscribed—"Alanus Dominus Abbas."

On the other side of the same door, is another tomb or monument of an abbot; but there is no inscription to inform us who he was, or when he presided. This monument is richly beautified with carved wrok.

On the south side of the church, under an arch, is a monument, which we apprehend has been erroneously taken for a tomb in memory of the duke of Somerset, who was beheaded after the battle of Tewkesbury, in 1471; as its bearings are evidently the arms of the Clares, earls of Gloucester, some one of which, it is probable, was interred below.

Directly opposite, on the north side, under an arch, is the effigy of lord Wenlock (who was killed by the duke of Somerset, in the battle of Tewkesbury) reclining on a tomb ; bearing on the shield, *a chevron between three blackmoor's heads*. Leland tells us that his body was removed to some other place : he is said to have been gentleman of the horse to the prince of Wales.

Under the tower, is a brass plate, to perpetuate the memory of the unfortunate Edward, prince of Wales (only son of king Henry VI.) who was murdered after the battle of Tewkesbury, by the adherents of king Edward IV.—It is uncertain where this prince was interred ; but history informs us that his body was thrown into a hole in common with the other victims of the battle, who were buried in the abbey.

The following inscription is taken from a brass plate on a stone in the body of the church :

In hoc Tumulo sepulta jacet Amia uxor Johannis Wiatt Tewkesburienſis Generoſi quæ ſpiritum exhalavit xxv Auguſt Ao. Dni.

In cujus obitum verſiculos perlegito
ſubſequentes.

A : A me diſce mori, mors eſt forſ omnibus una ;

M : Mortis et eſca fui mortis et eſca forſ.

I : In terram ex terra terreſtris maſſa meabis ;

E : Et capiet cineres urna parata cinis.

V : Vivere viſ cælo terrenam temnito vitam ;

V : Vita pijs mors eſt, mors mihi vita piæ,

J : Jeiunes vigiles, ores, credaſq. potenti,

A : Ardua Fac : non eſt mollis ad Aſtra via.

T : Te ſcriptura vocat, te ſermo eccleſia mater ;

T : Teq. vocat ſponſus ſpiritus atque pater.

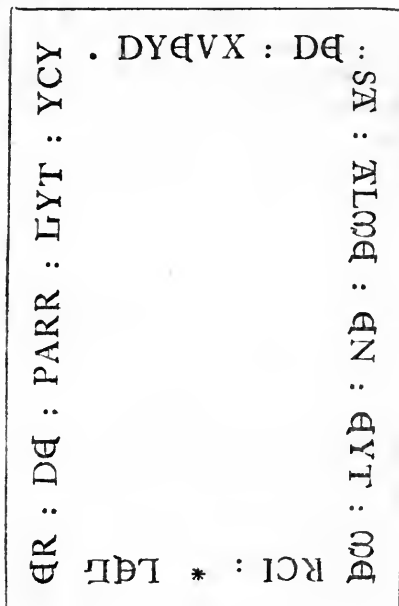
Thus Literally Tranſlated :

In this tomb lies buried Amie, the wife of John Wiatt, of Tewkesbury, gentleman, who breathed out her ſpirit, the 25th of Auguſt ----- (the year effaced).

Upon whoſe deceaſe read the following Verſes.

From me learn to die. Death is the common lot of all.
 Death's prey I have been, the prey of Death thou wilt be.
 To earth, from earth, an earthly mass thou must return;
 And thy ashes the ashy urn shall receive.
 Wouldst thou live in heaven, despise the life of earth.
 Life to the pious is Death. A pious death is life to me.
 Fast, watch, pray, believe in the omnipotent.
 Arduous 'tis true; but the way to heaven is not easy.
 The scripture, the word, the church call thee;
 The bride, the spirit, and the Father invite thee.

In the body of the church, between two pillars, is
 an old stone, as under:



In English,

Leger de Parr lies here : God on his Soul have mercy.

In the aisle surrounding the chancel, and just behind the altar, is the chapel of saint Edmund the Martyr. The legend, reporting his being shot with arrows, beheaded, and a wolf defending his head from other beasts, it is said was formerly described in fret-work on the top of the chapel; but no traces of it remain.

An ancient Monument, now destroyed.

Richard de Clare the second, was buried, in 1262, in the chancel of Tewkesbury abbey, where his wife Maud erected over him a very stately tomb, ornamented with gold, silver, and precious stones, the sword and spurs which he wore when alive, and other valuable materials. On this tomb was a large image of the earl in silver, and the following epitaph:

Hic pudor Hippoliti, Paridis gena. sensus Ulyssis,
Æneæ pietas Hectoris ira, jacet.

Which is thus translated by *Weever*, in his *Funeral Monuments*:

Chaste Hippolite and Paris faire; Ulysses wise and fly;
Æneas kind, fierce Hector, here jointly entomb'd lye.



A Selection of the Modern Monuments and Inscriptions.

In the aisle surrounding the chancel.

Arms, within a lozenge, *Party per pale*, 1. Stafford, Or, a chevron gules, a mullet for difference. 2. Quarterly, 1st and 4th, three bars, for Stanford, 2d and 3d, Sable,

*a chevron between three stag's horns with the scalps argent,
for Cocks.*

Here lies the hon. Elianor Stanford, daughter of Edward Stanford, Esq. of Sawford in the County of Warwick, by his wife Katharine Cocks of Northey in the County of Gloucester. She was the wife of the Hon. Francis Stafford, Son of William Lord Viscount Stafford and Lady Mary Countesse of Stafford his Wife, descended from the antient Princes, the Staffords Dukes of Buckingham and Earls of Stafford, &c. She had issue by him one Son named Henry, who puts this Stone upon her, in Memory of a Pious wife and tender mother. She departed this life the 26th day of October Anno Dni. 1707.

Arms, Azure, two bars argent between three lions passant in pale Or.

Here lies Frances sometime most tender wife of Edmond Boylston, Gen. and eldest daughter of Henry Minterne Esq. who dyed the 8th Day of February 1656: ætat suæ: 28.

With Charles, third Son to the said Edmond and Frances, who died the 6th of March 1656.

She was the Mirror of her Sex
for vertue and true pietie
A patterne faire and cleere Index
for meekness and Sobriety.
God grant vs all whilst glasse doth run
to live in Christ as she hath done.

Argent, six lioncels rampant, sable, 3, 2, 1.

Here lies the body of Lieutenant Wm. Felton. Gent. late of Gen. Shirley's Regiment of Foot, who departed this Life Aug. 15, 1762, Aged 27.

Farewell vain world, I've known enough of thee,
And value not what thou canst say of me,
Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowns I fear,
All's one to me, my head lies quiet here.

*Party per pale, 1. Argent, a lion passant gules, langued azure, on three bars wavy azure; on a chief of the last three bezants, for Hankins. * 2. Gules, on a cross stony, argent pierced, twelve escallops, three on each extremity paleways sable, for Humphreys.*

D'Avenant Hankins Esq.

Obit 6th Oct. 1782,

Ætatis 54

Arms, Gules, two demi lions passant guardant, Or.

Here lyeth the body of Edward Hatch Gent. who departed this Life the 9th day of January 1667.

The noble parts of him who here doth lye
In Law and Learning and of Policie
And with all virtues which from heaven are sent
Doe well deserve a Golden Monument
Oh cruell death could nothing thee asuage
To spare with us the Darling of our age.

Ecce Venio cito.

On a brass plate in the church.

1. *Three lozenges conjoined in fess, on that in the centre a martlet for difference.* 2. *As Roberts.*

Elianor Freeman.—

A Virgin blofom in her May
Of Youth and Vertues, turn'd to clay;

* Robert and Thomas De Hankins, fons of Frederic De Hankins of Mayon Castle in Normandy, came over with duke William, Anno 1066, who, for their noble services done in that, and other warlike actions, were honoured and rewarded. Robert he knighted and made governor of his Castle of Carlisle in Cumberland, a place of great trust, and gave Thomas an estate near Whitehaven, in the same county, and also this coat of arms, to them and their posterity, to bear in memory of the same for ever.

Rich Earth! accomplisht with those graces
 That adorne Saints for Heavenly places!
 Let not Death boast his conquering power;
 Shee'le rise a Starre, that fell a flower:

—deceased May the 2d
 An. 1653, aged 21.

COATS OF ARMS FOUND ABOUT THE CHURCH.

In the late robing room, *Azure, a cross patonce between five martlets Or*; supposed to be the arms of the kings of the west Saxons; and seem to be old coats removed from some other place and fixed here.

Against the wall, at the end of the chancel and other parts, are seen *three crowns*, supposed to be the arms of the east Angles.

Robert, earl of Glocester, bastard son of Hen I. bore for his arms *three rests gules in a field or*, as may be seen on the breast plate of this earl in the chancel windows. It is said, in Sandford's Genealogical History, that these arms were antiently painted on the covering of a tomb of Gilbert de Clare, in Tewkesbury church, as deriving his descent from the heir general of this Robert; but no such tomb or covering is now existing, though upon several figures dug up in the ruins, these arms have been found. They are now given by the Granville's, as descending from a brother of Robert Fitz-Hamon.

Richard de Clare, earl of Glocester and Hertford, gave for arms, *three chevrons gules in a field or*, as may be seen in many places about the church. It is said by Sandford, that *a label of three points argent, each charged with a lanton, gules*, was a coat attributed to the Clares,

and placed on the first quarter with the chevrons, as appeared on the tomb of Gilbert de Clare in Tewkesbury church.

The lord Hugh de Audley, * who married Margaret, the second daughter of Gilbert de Clare the second, bore for his arms, *Gules, a fret or, and a border, argent*, to be seen in the church.

Richard Beauchamp, fifth earl of Warwick, second husband to Isabel, youngest daughter of Thomas Despenfer, gave for his arms *a fess between six croissants*.

At the west front of the church, which is adorned with several shields and carvings, are these arms :

1. *Gules, a lion rampant regardant, or.*
2. In a lozenge *Or, a fess vairy between six labels of three points, sable.*
3. In a lozenge, - - - - - (effaced)
4. *Gules, a cross ragule, or.*
5. *Or, a fess vairy between six labels of three points, sable.*
6. *Gules, a saltier, argent.*
7. *Per bend, sable and or; a lion rampant, counter changed.*

Under the west window within the church:

1. In a lozenge, *Or, on a bend inter two cottises, gules, an escallop, impaling, Gules a bend, or.* Tracey of Stanway impaling —
2. Under a mitre, *Argent, two keys in saltier, the dexter, or, surmounted of the sinister, argent.*
3. In a lozenge, *Gules, a dexter hand coupe, argent, on a chief of the second, three cocks of the first.* Hancock of

* The lord Hugh de Audley was buried at Tewkesbury, on the north side of the High Altar, in 1348. In his wife's right he was earl of Gloucester. Vide p.

Twynning, impaling *Or, a fess wavy between six labels of three points, sable.*

4. As the last paternal coat, impaling *Gules, a fess vairy, argent and azure, inter three mullets, argent.* Hancock of Twynning, impaling Baugh of Twynning.
5. *Azure, a lion rampant, argent.* Pool of Salperton.

In the north east window.

1. *A lion sable crowned, Or, impaling,* 2. the arms of the Despenfers.

This was the armorial bearing of the Morleys. Thomas Morley married Anne, the eldest daughter of Edward Despenfer, earl of the Isle of Wight and of Devonshire.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN TRADE AND GOVERNMENT.

— Where amicably join
The sister floods, and with their liquid arms,
Greeting, embrace.

SOMMERVILLE.

TEWKESBURY, whose remote origin we have confessed to elude our enquiries, and whose general situation has already been mentioned, is a handsome and populous town. It consists of three principal streets, well paved and lighted, exclusive of several lanes and alleys. The High-street is of great length, very spacious and elegant, and leads from the centre of the town towards Worcester. Church-street, which is little inferior in beauty or extent, lies towards the Gloucester and Cheltenham roads; and Barton-street, which is the third, points towards Evesham.

The chief lanes are Quay-lane and St. Mary's-lane. These, as well as the alleys, are full of inhabitants; and the whole population cannot be computed at less than 4000 souls.

The general stile of building shews no inconsiderable degree of opulence. The houses are chiefly of brick; stone being a scarce material in this vicinity. Most of the old wooden habitations are now pulled down, and modern edifices erected in their room; but some specimens of the antient mode of structure still remain.

In the year 1786 an act of parliament was obtained for paving and lighting the streets, and removing encroachments and nuisances.* This has contributed much to the beauty and convenience of the town, and has infused a spirit of improvement into the inhabitants, which is constantly displaying itself more and more.

The surrounding roads, which were formerly at times almost impassable for carriages, are very much improved; and large sums are expended on their constant repairs, to which the turnpike tolls are now adequate.

To the east of Tewkesbury, ran the Ikeneld-street Roman way, as appears from Leland's Essay on the Courses of those stupendous works of public utility, but no traces of it now appear.

The soil in the town and its environs, is chiefly a deep rich loam. The country round is agreeably di-

* To the exertions of Neast Havard, Esq. the late town clerk of this borough, it is principally indebted for the benefit of this act.

verified with high sloping hills and deep vallies, fertile meadows and fine streams. Some of the landscapes in the vicinity are truly delightful, and comprize the Malvern, Bredon, Stanway, and Coteswold hills, with the rich and spacious vales that lie between.

Contiguous to the town is a large tract of land, called the Ham, which contains nearly 200 acres of as rich meadow land as any in the kingdom. It is occasionally used as a race ground; is commonable to the freemen and occupiers of front houses, from Allhallow-tide to Candlemas, and is the property of Thomas Dowdeswell, Esq. of Pull-Court, and others. Being surrounded by water, it is very subject to inundations from the frequent rise of the Severn; and the subsiding of those rich particles of earth which are carried by the stream, renders the use of manure wholly unnecessary.

Indeed the town itself is almost surrounded by water. The access is by three bridges. That over the Avon is a stone structure of considerable length. * The Swilgate and Carron have also commodious bridges thrown over their streams.

Tewkesbury was formerly famous for its manufactures: It had once a considerable share in the cloathing

* "Ther is a greate bridge of stone," says Leland, "at the northe ende of the town, and ther a litle above the bridge Avon brckith into 2 armes. Yet the bridge is so large that both cum under it. The right arme cummith into *Severne* withyn a flite shot of the bridge, and at the pointe of this arme is the town key for shippes caulled *Picardes*."

The other arme cummith down by the side of the towne and the abbay: leaving it on the este, and so passing harde ther by *Holme Castelle* goeth into *Severne*."

business, * but that trade has long since been lost. It was likewise remarkable for its mustard balls, which being very pungent, have occasioned this proverb, applied to a sharp fellow, *He looks as if he lived on Tewkesbury mustard*; and Shakspeare, speaking of one with a sad, severe countenance, uses the simile, *As thick as Tewkesbury mustard*. The chief manufacture at present, is stocking frame-work knitting, particularly cotton; but, it likewise carries on a considerable trade in malt-ing, and has some nailing business.

Here are two weekly markets, on Wednesday and Saturday, for pigs, sheep, grain, butter poultry, and butcher's meat; and seven annual fairs, viz. the second Monday in March, (heretofore the seventh of the same month)—first Wednesday in April O. S.—May 14—June 22—September 4—October 10—and, the first Wednesday in December O. S.—for cattle and pedlary. Besides these, there are two statute fairs, called mops, for the hiring of men and women servants—the Wednesday before old Michaelmas-day, and the Wednesday after.

Tewkesbury is an antient borough, governed by twenty-four principal burgesles, who (with twenty-four assistants) have an internal government or constitution, independent of the justices for the county. From these are annually elected, two bailiffs and four justices, who with the recorder, are the ruling magistrates of this corporation.

* Two pieces of broad cloth, one scarlet and the other crimson in grain, were sent from hence as presents; one to his majesty king George the first, when elector of Hanover; and the other to his majesty king George the second; which were most graciously accepted. Valued forty-five shillings a yard.

It was first incorporated by charter, 17th of Elizabeth, by the name of the bailiffs, burgesſes, and community of the borough of Tewkeſbury; and king James I. in the ſeventh year of his reign, granted them other charters, which were ſurrendered under the common ſeal of the corporation, to king James II. who re-incorporated them the ſecond year of his reign, by the name of the mayor, aldermen, and common-council, but there were no mayor or officers choſen by virtue of that new charter; and the government of the town, as a corporation, totally ceaſed till the thirteenth year of king William III. when the preſent charter was obtained.

Two members are ſent to parliament from this borough, choſen by the freemen and proprietors of freehold houſes, who, at this time amount to about five hundred. The bailiffs are the returning officers.

March 23, 7 James I. 1609, The town firſt obtained the privilege of ſending representatives to parliament; and Sir Dudley Digges was one of the firſt members for this place. The preſent are, James Martin and Chriſtopher Codrington, Eſqrs.

The amusements of a country town cannot be ſuppoſed to be very diverſified. In the winter ſeaſon there are card and dancing aſſemblies; and, that which, above all, evinces the ſuperior taſte and good ſenſe of the town and neighbourhood is, the eſta bliſhment of two Reading Societies. Here is alſo a bowling-green, the ſituation of which is remarkably pleaſant.

The inns furniſh excellent accommodations for travellers. The principal are, the Swan in High-ſtreet, the Hop-Pole, Church-ſtreet, and the Star-and-Garter in Barton-ſtreet.

Dissenters of various denominations have their respective places of worship in this town.

The Independents' meeting-house stands near the upper-end of Barton-street.

The Anabaptists' meeting is in an alley near the lower-end of Church-street.

The Quakers' meeting stands in St. Mary's Lane.

There is also a meeting house of the Methodists, in Tolsey Lane. — These are all plain edifices.

Formerly too there was a Jews' synagogue, but its exact site cannot be determined. No Jew however has resided here for several years. Leland says, their place of worship was near the hermitage; but both are now unknown. *

* Great number of this people resided in England, during the reign of Edward the Confessor. William the Conqueror, and his son Rufus, granted them several privileges. Henry II. allowed them a burial place on the outside of every city, before which they were obliged to carry their dead from every part of the kingdom to the only place of interment allowed them, near London. Thus encouraged, the Jews settled in every city and trading-town in England, until growing, by trade and usury, exceeding rich, their wealth excited the envy of both prince and people; who, as often as they could find an excuse for that purpose, plundered them without remorse. In 1 R. I. no less than 1500 of these miserable people were massacred at York, besides great numbers in other places, who fell by the hands of an insatuated and brutal populace. Notwithstanding these severe outrages, they soon became again very numerous in different parts of the kingdom; and during the disturbances in the reign of Henry III. they had, by bribing the king's council, been admitted to all the privileges of christian natives; they purchased houses, lands, and manors; sat in juries; enjoyed seign and the

There are evident vestiges of a church or chapel having antiently stood in St. Mary's lane; but no records inform us of the time of its erection or demolition.

Here was also a large stable for the king's horses, as antiquaries inform us, of which no traces are left.

Inedited half-pence or tradesmen's tokens are not unfrequently found about the town; the different inscriptions and devices of which, shew them to have been the particular coinage of individual traders, residents of the borough*.

Tewkesbury has had the honour of giving title to several noble persons. There was a William earl of Tewkesbury, in the reign of Henry I. Sir Henry Cappel, brother to the earl of Essex, was created baron of

wardship of christian heirs, together with the right of presentation to livings. But in the succeeding reign an act was passed, to disqualify all jews from holding fee or freehold, and prevent their lending money on usury to christians, under the severest penalties. Soon after, great numbers of them were executed, for diminishing the coin of this kingdom; and in the year 1290, a proclamation was made for seizing all their estates, and the whole community was for ever banished the kingdom, to the number of 16,511.

* It appears, that from the reign of queen Elizabeth, to that of king Charles II. tradesmen coined small monies for the convenience of trade, in lead, tin, copper, or brass: and every trader that issued this kind of specie, was obliged to take it again when offered to him. Therefore, in considerable towns, where many sorts were current, tradesmen kept sorting boxes, into which they put the money of individuals; and at a convenient time, it was sent them to be exchanged. In this manner it continued 'till 1672, when Charles II. having struck half-pence and farthings sufficient for the exigencies of trade, the *nummorum famuli* were superseded, and no longer useful nor current.

Tewkesbury by king William III.; and the electoral prince of Hanover, afterwards king George I. in 1706, was created baron of Tewkesbury, in the county of Gloucester, by queen Anne.

PUBLIC STRUCTURES: TOWN HALL—MARKET PLACE—
FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, &c.

Town Hall.

TILL within a few years, the centre of the town was occupied by a building called the Tolsey, or Town Hall, and two dwelling houses adjoining, very old and of mean appearance, and so situated as to render the passage for carriages from Church-street into High-street, very inconvenient, and sometimes dangerous. But the liberality of Sir William Codrington, Bart. one of the late worthy representatives in parliament, enabled the corporation to remove those buildings, so that the space on which they stood, now forms a noble opening, and adds greatly to the beauty of the streets. Nor did his generosity stop here—at an expense of more than twelve hundred pounds, he erected a new Town-Hall, in High-street, and presented it to the Corporation. This structure was finished in 1788. The ground-floor is chiefly appropriated for a hall, where the quarter sessions are held. The principal story consists of a handsome banqueting or ball-room, of large dimensions, ornamented with a portrait of the founder, painted by Mr. Beechey (now Sir William Beechey, Knt.); and of a drawing room, used as a council-chamber, where the corporation meet.

Adjoining the hall, is the town clerk's office, in which the public business of the borough is transacted.

Market Place.

The markets of Tewkesbury were formerly held under an open part of the old town-hall; but that edifice being removed, a commodious market-place has been lately erected, at the upper end of the Church-street, at the joint expense of twenty subscribers; to whom (in consideration of their having erected such building) a lease has been granted, by the corporation, of the tolls for stallage, for the term of ninety-nine years, at the end of which term, the building and all the profits of the market, are to revert to the corporation.

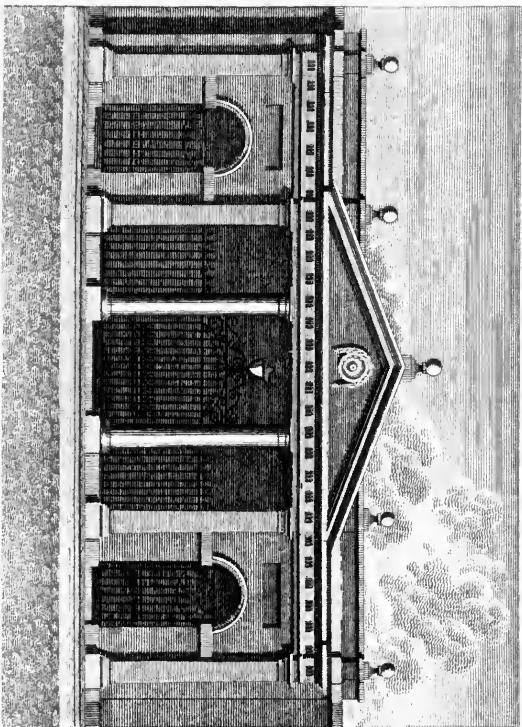
This market is well frequented, and extremely well supplied with all the necessaries of life.

The House of Industry,

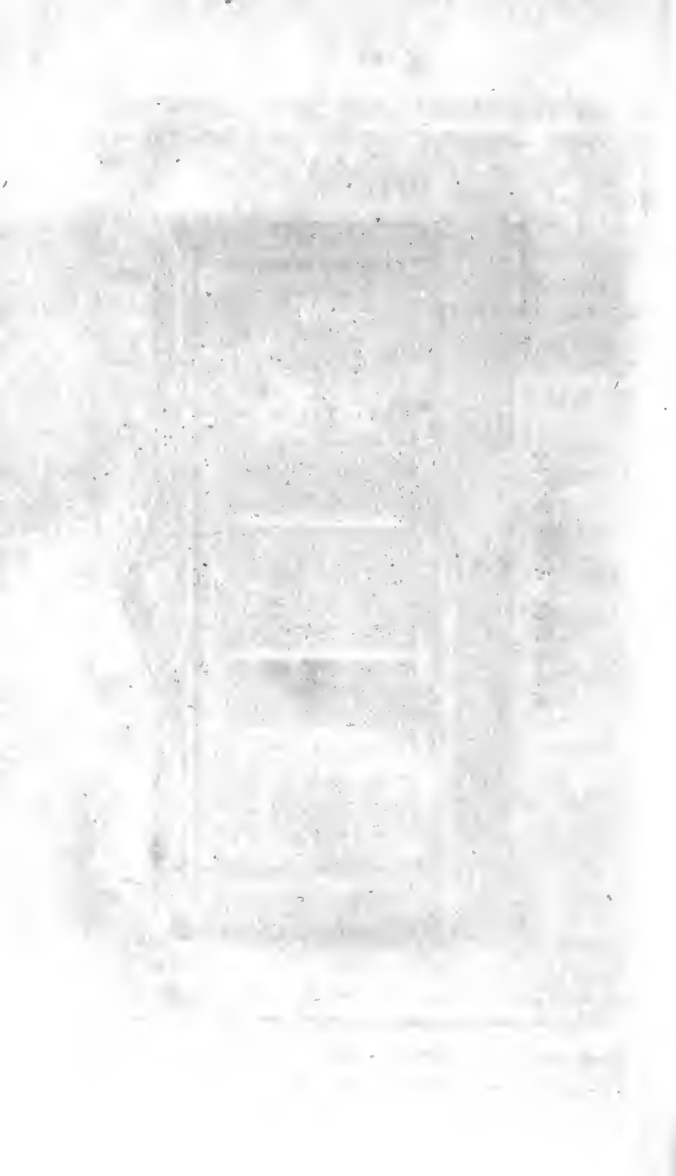
Is a large brick building, well adapted for its destination; and is eligibly situated on Holme Hill, near the entrance of the town from Gloucester and Cheltenham. It contains numerous apartments, and we trust it will ever be managed on principles conducive to the health, convenience, and morals of the poor; to ensure which important objects, the vigilant and unremitting attention of the Directors is indispensibly requisite.

Free Grammar School.

The free Grammar School, stands contiguous to the north end of the abbey church, and consists only of one apartment. In the charter, granted to this borough, by king William, it is called the school of William Ferrers, on account of his having been a principal benefactor to it. The bailiffs, justices, chamberlain, and



MARKET HOUSE .



town-clerk, for the time being, are the governors, and the Rev. William Profler is the present master, with a salary of 40*l.* per annum. The boys are elected by the governors, who are incorporated by the charter.

Charity School.

The right honourable lady Dowager Capel, by will, in 1719, and Mr. Thomas Merret, in 1724, devised certain lands to trustees, in order to apply the rents for the support and benefit of a charity school in Tewkesbury.

But the annual sum arising from these charities being small, an addition is made to it, by the private subscription of some of the inhabitants.

Fifteen boys receive the benefit of this charity, who are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Formerly, this school was more liberally patronized, and of consequence its utility was more extensive, as appears by a book, printed in 1712.

Sunday Schools.

While on the subject of schools it should be mentioned, that, in 1788, a subscription was set on foot for the establishment of Sunday Schools in this borough; at which the children of the honest and industrious poor, are taught to read, and are instructed in the principles of the Christian Religion, and in their social and moral duties. So benevolent and useful an institution we hope, will ever find patrons, as long as it is properly conducted.

Formerly there was an eminent academy at Tewkesbury, at which some distinguished characters received their early education. Among the rest we can particu-

larize Secker, archbishop of Canterbury, and Butler, bishop of Durham; as appears from Secker's life, prefixed to his sermons.

On the north side, near the entrance of the church yard, stands the gaol for the borough. It appears to have been originally annexed to the abbey, and used as a belfry, for the purpose of convening the inhabitants to church on week days. It was afterwards converted into a gaol for half the county, but is now confined to the use of the town.

Here are also alms-houses in the Church-yard and Gander-lane; the former for ten poor widows, and the latter for poor persons, placed therein by the trustees to these charities; both without any endowment.

HAMLETS BELONGING TO TEWKESBURY—MYTHE AND SOUTHWICK.

THE whole parish of Tewkesbury is about six miles in circumference. It contains the two hamlets of the Mythe and Southwick.

The Mythe.

The word Mythe seems clearly to be derived from the Greek *Μυθος*, which remotely signifies a *station**. The eminence which goes under the denomination of the Mythe, is formed by nature for a military station, being difficult of access in every part except the north. The Severn and the Avon, which flow at its base, and meet each other in the valley, add to its security; and, in ancient times, it was no doubt a strong position for an army. The Romans frequently adopted the terms

* Vide Hesych. in Voc.

of the Greeks; and the very name, which the place now bears, decides it to have been, formerly, a Roman Military Station.

On the south-west side of the Mythe, there is a *Tumulus*, the summit of which commands beautiful and extensive prospects: its front is a very abrupt precipice, at the foot of which runs the Severn, whose windings add a richness to the variegated surrounding landscapes. When their present majesties and the princesses resided at Cheltenham, in the year 1788, this spot had the honour of several royal visits. It used to be called by the name of the *Mythe Tute*, but it is now aptly changed to that of *Royal Hill*.

The Mythe is situated about half a mile north of Tewkesbury, and is ornamented by the seats of Martin Lucas, William Dillon, and Thomas Porter, Esqrs. These command exceedingly rich and wide-extended prospects, in which Tewkesbury, the Severn, with the Avon, and a pleasing variety of hills and vales, form the principal objects of attraction.

Here is a venerable-looking building in this hamlet, which has not unfrequently been mistaken for Holme Castle. It does not, however, appear to have any thing particularly curious to recommend it; and nothing is handed down to us by which it may be spoken of with any degree of certainty, though there is a traditionary opinion, that it was inhabited by king John, at the time of his building the long bridge.

Southwick.

Southwick is briefly mentioned in the extract from the Domesday book, at the beginning of the account of the manor of Tewkesbury.

The Lodge, in this hamlet, the seat of Col. Wall, is charmingly situated on a lofty eminence, rising by a gentle acclivity, on the banks of the Severn, and about a mile south-west of the town. The views from this spot are very picturesque; the eye commanding a spacious tract of land, eminently enriched by a diversity of very beautiful scenery. This situation formerly constituted Tewkesbury park, as it appears from Leland.

“ Ther is a parke bytwixt the old Plotte of *Holme*
 “ Castelle and it (*Deerhurst*), but it longgid to *Holme*
 “ the Erles of Glocester’s House and not to it. Ther
 “ is a fair maner Place of tymbre and stone in this
 “ Theokisbyri Parke wher the Lord Edward Spensar lay
 “ and late my Lady Mary.”

ITINERARY.

RIVERS SURROUNDING TEWKESBURY:—SEVERN—AVON
 —CARRON AND SWILGATE.

Severn.

THE river Severn, which is justly esteemed the second and most rapid river in England, and far superior to any other in beautifully picturesque and varied scenery, has its rise at the foot of Plinlimmon, a mountain in the south-west part of Montgomeryshire, in North Wales; and, after being joined by numberless small streams, passes on with a swift current through Shropshire and Worcestershire, and enters this county about a mile above Tewkesbury, to which place the tides flow, in general, every full and change of the moon. At Tewkesbury it receives the Avon; from

thence it runs to Gloucester, keeping a N. W. course till it empties itself into the Bristol Channel, below Kingroad, having run near two hundred miles from its source. For some distance from its mouth, which is deemed singularly magnificent*, it is four or five miles broad, and is navigable for vessels of considerable burthen as high as Pool Quay, near Welch Pool, being within a few miles of Plinlimmon-hill; viz. for vessels of 110 tons to Gloucester, of 80 to Tewkesbury, of 70 to Worcester, of 60 to Bewdley and Stourport, of 40 to Shrewsbury, and of 30 to Pool Quay, beyond which place it is not navigable, except in great floods.

The British name of this river is *Hafren*, which was given it, as some say, because a virgin of the name of *Abren*, or *Sabren*, was drowned in it, by command of queen Guendolena, after the death of her husband, Locrine, because she was the fruit of his unlawful love. Agreeably to this are the following lines of an ancient poet:

—— In flumen præcipitatur ABREN
 Nomen ABREN fluvio de virgine; nomen eidem
 Nomine corrupto, deinde SABRINA datur.

Thus Englished:

Into this stream fair ABREN's body cast,
 Gave name of ABREN to the waters vast,
 Corruptly call'd SABRINA now at last.

And Milton, alluding to this story, speaks thus:

—— SEVERN swift, guilty of Maiden's death.

* "The estuary of the Severn is singularly magnificent, forming a channel, not unfrequently nor improperly styled the Severn sea; whose banks, on either side, rise from the richest marshes to lofty and picturesque mountains. Europe, I believe, does not furnish another river-entrance of equal grandeur."

Marshall's Rural Econ. of Gloucestershire.

But Leland treats this story as fabulous, and gives it as his opinion, that the river took its name from *Aber*, an old British word, implying the junction of a lesser water with a greater. From this, the Severn (which consists of an union of many contributory waters) may very probably have been denominated.

Others again, rejecting the opinion of Leland, suppose the name to be derived from the Saxon *Sæfern*, or Sea-flowing.

The Severn is very remarkable for its tide, by historians termed the *Hygre*, but more commonly called the *Boar*, which swells not by degrees, as in other rivers, but rolls in with a head, two, three, and sometimes four feet high, foaming and roaring, as if enraged by the opposition of the banks. It is occasioned, as Mr. Rudder remarks*, from the resistance it meets with from a strong current of fresh water, which seems to contend with it for the superiority, clashing in such a manner as to dash the waters to a considerable height. This contest between them, continues he, is called the *Hygre*, or *Eiger*, probably from the French *eau guerre*, i. e. water-war. The tide getting the better, marches up the stream victoriously. Sir Robert Atkins† accounts for it, from the mouth of the Severn opening to the great Atlantic ocean, which pours in its tide with great violence, and the river becoming narrow on a sudden, it fills the channel at once. An hypothesis, which appears both philosophical and just.

* New History of Gloucestershire.

† History of Gloucestershire.

*Drayton's description of the turbulence of the river
Severn.*

-----“ with whose tumultuous waues
Shut vp in narrower bounds, the HIGKE wildly raues;
And lights the stragling flocks, the neighbouring shores to flie,
As farre as from the Maine it comes with hideous cry,
And on the angry front the curled foame doth bring,
The billowes gainst the banks when fiercely it doth sing;
Hurles vp the slimie ooze and makes the scaleie brood
Leape madding to the Land affrighted from the flood :
Oreturmes the toyling Barge, whose sterefman doth not lanch,
And thrusts the furrowing beake into her iresull patch :
As when we haplie see a sickhe woman fall
Into a fit of that which wee the Mother call,
When from the griued wombe shee feeles the paine arise,
Breakes into griuous sighes, with intermixed cries,
Bereaued of her sence; and strugling still with those
That gainst her rising paine their utmost strength oppose,
Starts, tosses, tumbles, strikes, turnes, tenses, spurnes and spranles,
Casting with furious lims her holders to the walles;
But that the horrid pangs torment the griued so,
One well might muse from whence this suddaine strength should
grow.”

Poly-olbion, b. 7. p. 101.

William of Malmesbury speaking of this river, says,
“ There is not any in the land that has a broader chan-
“ nel, swifter stream, or greater plenty of fish. There
“ is in it as it were a daily *rage* and *fury* of the waters ;
“ which I know not whether I may call a *Gulf* or
“ *Whirlpool*, casting up the sands from the bottom, and
“ rowling them into heaps; it comes with a great tor-
“ rent, but loses its force at a bridge. Sometimes it
“ overflows its banks, and marching a great way into
“ the neighbouring plains, returns back as conqueror
“ of the land. That vessel is in great danger which
“ is stricken by it on the side; the watermen are used

“ to it, and when they see this *Hygre* coming (for so they call it) they turn the vessel, and, cutting through the midst of it, avoid its force.”

The tides of the Severn are very variable: They are sometimes higher at the full moon, and other times at the change, but the fifth tide, after the full or change of the moon, is generally the highest. Sometimes also the night tides are highest, and at other times the day tides.

Excellent fish are caught in this river, particularly salmon, carp, lampreys, trout, pike, shad, flounders, and other of the smaller sort.

The Severn abounds also with a peculiar sort of fish, called Elvers. They are said, by naturalists, to be the young of the conger eel, a species of the *Muraena*. They are scarcely so big as a quill when they enter the rivers, and are caught in considerable quantities about the month of April. They are reckoned very delicate eating.

It has been conjectured, that the vale through which the Severn runs, was once wholly inundated; a conjecture which seems not improbable, as the meadows on each side of the river, for several miles together, are flat, and uniformly of a deep, rich soil, such as we may suppose that land to have been, which was for ages covered with water, and then left to the power of vegetation. The breadth too of this vale seems to widen by degrees, except where a few hillocks have been thrown up to straiten it, as it draws nearer the broad water. Most of these meadows, likewise, are common for at least half the year: from whence we may infer, that they have continued to be the property

of no one in particular, ever since they were first left by the waters; though it must be confessed, that in the course of time, these commons have fallen under various regulations. The bottom of the Severn, for the most part, is of a light sand or gravel, and therefore apt to be formed into shoals, which are very frequently shifted by high and rapid tides and stormy weather, as well as by the immense body of water descending from the upper country after hasty rains.

Much has been said of the expediency of improving the navigation of this river, which is at all times tedious and uncertain, from the fortuitous obstacles of windings, shoals, and other impediments; but there is little reason to believe that any attempt of this kind will ever be successful. The modes proposed have been either to raise locks, or straiten the course of the stream by weirs; the expediency of which is very problematical. The Gloucester canal, as far as that port, will probably obviate the principal dangers of the navigation of the Severn.

During the summer months, the fishermen find here large quantities of a species of coal, something of the *culme* kind, which is of great service to the maltsters and brickmakers of that part of the country where it is found. It is raised from the bottom of the Severn, by means of an iron hoop, with a small net hanging from it at the end of a pole, which will reach to the bottom of the water. The sand being washed away, the net retains the coal, which is in pieces of the size of the smallest pebbles, and like them in shape, having all their angles and corners rubbed off by rolling in the water: a proof that they come from some very distant part, and are brought hither entirely by the

rapidity of the stream. Besides, they seem to be of a nature very different from the coals of Stourport, and therefore cannot be from the same source, unless the deposit of them in the water for a length of time, produces this change.

The river Severn is of very considerable importance to this kingdom, on account of its trade. Many hundred thousand tons of coals are annually transported from the collieries of Shropshire and Staffordshire, to the towns situate on its banks, and the country adjacent; also, great quantities of lead, iron, and iron manufactures, grain, &c. are constantly carried to Bristol and Chépstow, from whence merchants' goods are returned.

“ It is a singular circumstance,” says Mr. Gilpin*, “ that within a quarter of a mile of the well-head of the Wye arises the Severn. The two springs are nearly alike: but the fortunes of rivers, like those of men, are owing to various little circumstances, of which they take the advantage in the early part of their course. The Severn meeting with a tract of ground, rising on the right, soon after it leaves Plinlimmon, receives a push towards the north-east. In this direction it continues its course to Shrewsbury. There it meets another obstruction, which turns it as far south-east. Afterwards, still meeting with favourable opportunities, it successfully improves them; enlarging its circle; sweeping from one country to another; receiving large accessions every where of wealth and grandeur; till, at length with a full tide, it enters the ocean as an arm of the sea. In the mean time, the

* In his Observations on the river Wye.

“ Wye, meeting with no particular opportunities of any
 “ consequence to improve its fortunes, never makes any
 “ figure as a capital river; and, at length, becomes sub-
 “ servient to that very Severn, whose birth, and early
 “ setting out in life, were exactly similar to its own.
 “ Between these two rivers is comprehended a district,
 “ consisting of great part of the counties of Montgo-
 “ mery, Radnor, Salop, Worcester, Hereford, and Glo-
 “ cester. Of the last county, that beautiful portion only
 “ is inclosed, which forms the Forest of Dean.”

About two miles from Tewkesbury lies the isle of
 Eight, in the Severn; where, as some suppose, the single
 combat between Edmund Ironside and Canute the
 Great was terminated, by an amicable resolution of di-
 viding the crown.

Avon.

Of the several Avons in this kingdom, that now
 under review is generally allowed to have the pre-emi-
 nence; not only from being the most considerable in its
 volume, and the length of its course, but as it was on
 this river, that

-----Shakespeare, Fancy's sweetest child,
 Warbled his native wood notes wild.

From which circumstance it has derived that distinguish-
 ing epithet of “ the soft-flowing Avon.” It meanders
 through one of the finest vallies in the kingdom, the
 vale of Tewkesbury, or, as it is more generally called,
 the vale of Evesham; which is so remarkable for its
 fruitfulness, particularly in corn, as to be frequently
 denominated “ the Garden of England.”

From the ancient British word *Avon*, signifying a
 river, this Avon derived its name. It rises in Northamp-

tonshire. and runs by Warwick and Stratford, at which place it becomes navigable, to Evesham, from thence to Tewkesbury, where, taking its course near the town, it discharges itself into the Severn.

It appears, by an old MS. that this river (by means of which, with the Severn, Tewkesbury has communication with the greater part of the kingdom) was first made navigable in the year 1637. Leland tells us that “George Duke of Clarence, brother to king Edward, had thought to have brought Avon aboute the towne, and to have enlarged the towne.”

Carron and Swilgate.

The Carron rises in Beckford, and discharges itself into the Avon a little above Tewkesbury. It is a boundary between the counties of Gloucester and Worcester.

The Swilgate, or Swilyate, which rises near Cheltenham, empties itself into the Avon a little below the town. Leland, speaking of it, says, “Ther is a litle Broke caullid *Suliet* cumming downe from *Clive*, and enterith into Avon at Holme Castelle by the lifte Ripe of it. This at Sodayne Raynes is a very wylde Broke, and is fedde with Water faulling from the Hilles therby.”

ITINERARY.

REMARKABLE AND INTERESTING INCIDENTS RELATIVE
TO TEWKESBURY.

Extracted from the Black Book belonging to the Corporation, and other authentic Records.

SIR Matthew Hale, in his History of the Common Law, says, there were seven pair of the charters called Magna Charta and Charta de Foresta (which were granted by king John at Runnymede, 15th of June, 1215) sent to some of the great monasteries; one part whereof was sent to the abbey of Tewkesbury, and which sir Matthew says he had seen; and the substance thereof differed something from the Magna Charta and Charta de Foresta, granted by king Henry III. *Vide Runnington's Edition of Hale*, p. 7. *Wright's Tenures*, p. 84, 85.

1260. It is recorded, that a jew having fallen into a privy or common sewer at Tewkesbury, on a Saturday, refused to permit any one to help him out on that day, lest he should profane his sabbath; and, that Richard de Clare II. the lord of the manor, hearing of it, gave orders that none should assist him on the Sunday, resolving to make him observe the christian sabbath with the same solemnity he had done his own. But before Monday morning this ceremonious Israelite expired in filth and stench. *See Purchas's Pilgrimage.*

In the year 1470, a commission was granted to the bishop of Down and Connor, to new consecrate Tewkesbury church, because it had been then lately polluted with blood.

Robert, earl of Gloucester, natural son of king Henry I. built a lofty wooden spire on the top of Tewkesbury church, which, on Easter-day, 1559, fell down in the time of divine service.

1554. Queen Mary, by her letters patent under the great seal of England, dated the third of April, gave to thirteen poor, aged, and impotent men of this town, commonly called the Beadsmen, or Almshouses, and to continue for ever, as follows: To each of them in money, ten-pence per week; to each of them yearly to buy a gown, six shillings and eight-pence; and five marks yearly for the rent of a house for their habitation.

On the 24th of July, 1571, being fair-day, such a quantity of bats came floating down the river Avon at this town, that they covered the surface of the water for above a land's length, in heaps more than a foot thick, which so dammed up the mills for three days, that they could not go, 'till the bats were dug out with shovels. *Vide Wantner's Papers in the Bodleian Library.*

1574. This year the town sent an ox, of unusual size, to Kenelworth-castle, to be presented to the earl of Leicester, being high-steward, who had then procured the town to be incorporated; which ox was seventeen hands high, and in length from head to tail twenty-six hands three inches, and cost 14l. for which the whole town was levied and gathered. And the year before, the said earl was presented at Tewkesbury with a cup, silver and gilt, which cost 16l. for which the town was also levied.

The same year (1574) a beadle was appointed by the council, for suppressing those vagabonds that fre-

frequented the town, to devour the alms of the poor and impotent.

Also, it was ordered and appointed, 23d of April, for the placings and settings of the market newly granted for all manner of live cattle, wool and yarn, That the market for great cattle,—oxen, kine, &c. should be holden in the High-street or Oldbury-street, from the end of the town downwards to the Key-lane; the market for cheese to be kept in Church street, between the lane by Nicholas Clevelie's house and the Church-stile; and that the market for wool and yarn should be kept in the sollar over the market-house; and all other markets to be kept as they had been used before that time.

1577. The beadle before appointed for suppressing vagabonds, was discharged by the bailiffs; to save the expences thereby incurred.

In the church-warden's book of accounts for Tewkesbury, A. D. 1578, is this entry.—“ Pay'd for
“ the player's geers, six sheepskins for Christ's Gar-
“ ments.” And in an inventory recorded in the same book, 1585, are these words, “ And order eight heads
“ of hair for the apostles, and ten beards, and a face
“ or vizer for the devil.”—This shews that mysteries, as plays were then called, were probably acted in the churches*.

* Of the mysteries, see Roscoe's life of Lorenzo di Medici, Vol. 1. p. 299; Tyrwhit's Chaucer, Vol. 4. p. 243; and Preface to Malone's Shakspeare. The precepes, or representation of the *Manger* in which Christ was laid, are to this day exhibited at Rome.

The miracle play of St Catharine, is said to be written by Geoffry, abbot of St. Alban's, and performed at Dunstable 1110; but Roscoe

In 1578, about Michaelmas, began the supposed sickness of Pestilence, in the town, and in six weeks died the number of thirty persons; but by the diligent care of the bailiffs in shutting up the suspected houses, a general infection was prevented.

In 1579 the sickness appeared again, supposed to be the pestilence, which, by the good government of the bailiffs in shutting up the houses, it began and ended in the Swan Inn.—Five persons only dying thereof.

On the 4th of July, 1580, the county assizes were held here, the plague, it is supposed, being then at Gloucester. And the bailiffs, in their account with the chamberlain, charged 11s. for wine, and 13s. 4d. for tent, with which they had treated the court and their friends—An example of the frugality of those times! But, as Mr. Rudder has very justly observed*, what would two of his Majesty's justices think of such a treat now-a-days?

In 1582 the belfry tower was converted into a house of correction, for half the shire, by the justices.

1584. The quav was enlarged and new repaired with posts, &c. at the expence of the bailiffs and the benevolence of other persons.

In 1586, there was a dearth in this country that bordered upon famine, and the justices of the peace

says, there was no dramatic composition in the English language before the year 1500, prior to which they were common in Italy.

See more in Percy's reliques of ancient English poetry, Vol. 1. p. 136---Ancient songs.

* New History of Gloucestershire:

joined with the bailiffs of the town to abridge the liberty of buying grain, and malting was entirely prohibited.

On the 19th day of July, 1587, being Friday, happened a very great and sudden inundation of the rivers Severn and Avon, infomuch that in two days time the meadows were all overflowed. The inhabitants of Tewkesbury and others going with carriages to fetch the hay out of the neighbouring meadows, were obliged to relinquish their design, and leave the carts loaded behind them. And in the meadows just above the town, the cocks of hay were swimming in such abundance down towards the long bridge, that the townsmen were constrained, with pick-forks and long poles, to stand on the bridge of wood to break the cocks, lest the bridge should be carried away by the force of them. Much grass was found unmowed the Bartholomew tide following, the greater part of which, with much hay, was used for thatch.

In the reign of queen Elizabeth, on the threatened Spanish invasion, Tewkesbury raised forty-six men for the queen's service.

After Michaelmas 1591, a house was suspected to be infected with the plague, at which time it was great in London.

In November next year, the plague began in Barton-street, with only one or two houses being infected, until the April following, when it raged very furiously, continuing all the summer, winter, and spring following, until the middle of May, when, contrary to expectation, it entirely ceased. No less than five hundred and sixty persons died of it within the year; and of houses

infected there were one hundred and fifty or more; during which time, from before Whitsuntide until All-Saints, no market or fair was kept in the town. Many of the inhabitants forsook the place in consequence of the sickness.

In 1595, grain was so high before the harvest, that proclamations were published to restrain the prices to the rates they were at two months before.

In 1596, the town was divided into five wards, over which presided two high constables:—1. Bridge-ward. 2. Church-ward. 3. Barton-ward. These three had each a petty constable. 4. St. Mary's-ward, with two petty constables. 5. The Middle-ward, which the high constables themselves took charge of. There are now only four constables for the borough.

1596. Poor strangers so greatly frequented this town, that a beadle was again ordered to walk the streets.

In 1597, wheat sold for 12s. 6d. per bushel, barley 8s. malt 8s. which were excessive prices, considering the scarcity of money. During these times, the citizens of Gloucester stretched a chain across the Severn, that no vessel with provisions might pass beyond them, but the town of Tewkesbury petitioning the lords of the privy council, they caused the chain to be taken down.

Pestilence commonly succeeds famine, accordingly the plague made its appearance the following year, and carried off about forty persons.

1602. This year the bridge over Swilgate was built.

September 13, 1602, Lord Zouch, the lord president of Wales, came through this town, and lay here all night, and was presented, by Mr. Bailiff, with wine and sugar.

In 1602, the monks' stalls, which were formerly situated in the body of the church, were removed into the chancel; as appears by an old book belonging to the church-warden.

1603. The plague broke out again, when twenty-three persons died of it, all of whom were buried in coffins of board; which shews a superior degree of decency to what is commonly observed in regard to those who die of that cruel malady.

In 1604, there was so great a drought, that the Avon was dry from Whitsuntide to the Bartholomew tide following.

In 1607 a large entire blue stone was found under ground in the church, thirteen feet eight inches long, three feet and a half broad, and seven inches thick; which for some time was placed in the middle of the chancel, and used as the communion table.

December 20, 1607, began a great frost, with extreme cold, continuing until the 18th of February following, in which time, the rivers being frozen, a scarcity of wood and coal caused great distress to many of the poor inhabitants, and proved very inconvenient to the trading part of the community.

In 1610 there was a flood that spoiled great quantities of hay.

In 1612, there was an order of the council, that all market horses (which heretofore stood in the market-place, to the great inconvenience of the inhabitants) should be put into stables, and other houses of the town; and that the owners of them should pay one penny for the standings of every three horses, if without meat; but if meat was given them, one halfpenny at least should be paid for every horse, and nothing for their standings.

1620. The crop of corn was so great this year, that barley sold for 16d. per bushel, and the best wheat for 3s.

In the summer of 1624, being the first year of the reign of king Charles I. this town was again visited by a pestilence, but by the care of the bailiffs in removing infected families into the Oldbury-field, where houses were built for their reception, this calamity soon ceased, and not more than twenty persons died.

Monday, March 28, 1625, Mr. Edward Alye, eldest son and executor of his father Edward Alye, esq. deceased, who was buried this day, caused the poor to assemble in the church, in the afternoon, when Robert Maile of Fortington, and John James of this town, distributed 7l. 17s. after the proportion of two-pence a-piece, whereby it appears that the number of poor exceeded nine hundred, and yet the country poor were excluded.

In 1632 the four bells in the tower were cast into six; the charge whereof was near one hundred pounds.

In January 1634, fell the greatest snow that was ever remembered in the memory of man; and it was attended with such extreme cold, violent, and tempestuous weather, that many people going from this market were smothered and frozen to death. And in the August following, great quantities of the same snow and ice were to be seen in Brockhampton quarries, notwithstanding it was an extreme hot summer.

1635. This year the Holme bridge (at the Church-street's end) was built.

In the year 1637, the river Avon was first made navigable by Mr. William Sandys of Fladbury.

1638. On the 5th of April fell, after a great drought, a snow that was more than a foot deep.

And on the 2d of July, the assizes were held here again, before sir Humphry Davenport, chief baron of the Exchequer, and Sir William Jones, kt. when the court made the following order:—

Glouc. ff. **W**HEREAS there is a certeyne Bridge called the Long-Bridge, lying att the North-end of the Towne of Tewkesbury, and leading towards the Cittie of Worcester, conteyning above seven hundred yards in length, which is growne into great decay, and so hath beene for many yeares last past, by reason whereof divers of his majesties subjects travelling that way have beene unfortunately drowned: And for that it doth not appeare who in the memory of Man have repayred the

said Bridge, nor who by Law ought to doe itt : Therefore to the end foe necessary a worke should bee effected, It is ordered by assent, that the County of Gloucester shall forthwith rayse by way of contribucon, a competent some of money, towards the repayre of the sayde Bridge, which being once effected, the Corporation of Tewkesbury doth offer to keepe and maynteyne the same. Provided that the contribucon of the whole County with the Parish of Tewkesbury bee noe prejudice to the County, nor drawne into example for the future.

Per Curiam.

In 1639, the stone bridge next the Mythe, and the arch over the Avon were built. These constitute part of the long bridge.

1640. The summer of this year was the wettest ever known. There were eight floods between Midsummer and Michaelmas. So often was the Ham under water, that the hay was all lost or spoiled, the meadows were not half mowed, and the grafs rotted upon the ground.

The earl of Essex with his army came to this town, the 10th of September, 1643, and lay here five days; from hence they marched towards London, but the king's army meeting them near Newbery, a great battle was fought there.

In the year 1647, this borough was assessed ten pounds ten shillings per month, towards the maintenance of the forces within the kingdom, and for carrying on the war with Ireland.

1648. This summer was so remarkable for cold and wet, that harvest began not until Bartholomew-tide, and wheat sold at 10s, rye at 8s. and malt at 6s. the bushel, and in all probability would have been double the price, had not great quantities been imported from abroad.

On the 2d of July, 1655, Henry Saule bought at this market, thirteen bushels of good wheat at 17d. per bushel, and the same day paid 22d. for barley. This is a circumstance so very remarkable, that an instance of the kind was never heard of before, nor probably will never occur again.

On the 18th of February, 1661, the great west window of the church was blown down by a violent wind.

1662. On the 14th of August, lord Herbert, the lord lieutenant of the county, by virtue of an act of parliament for regulating corporations, came to this town and set aside ten of the common council, and chose others in their stead.

On the 23d of December, 1673, here was so great a flood, that the water came into the chancel of the church. An inundation so extensive, could not be remembered by the oldest inhabitant of the place.

1675. About half past seven o'clock in the evening of the 4th of January, a very dreadful shock of an earthquake was felt here and in the parts adjacent.

February 10, 1685, king James II. was proclaimed in this town.

1686. It appears that the great west window of the church, which was blown down in 1661, was not rebuilt until this year.

In the year 1696, the six bells in the church were cast into eight; the expences of which were defrayed by voluntary contribution. They were founded by that celebrated workman, Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester.

1699. This year the earl of Effex passed through the town, and was made free of the corporation. The duke of Stomberg likewise passed through, and was also made free of the corporation.

The same year seven companies were compleated, and provided their flags to attend upon Messrs. the Bailiffs.

In June, 1721, here was a great flood, so high that the inhabitants were necessitated to use boats in the town. Most of the grafs was spoiled, but it proved a very good corn harvest.

Same year, his royal highness the prince of Wales, gave a gold cup, of 50 guineas value, which was run for over Tewkesbury Ham, the 2d of September, and won by a horse belonging to John Bruges, esq.

1722. There was a great flood which did considerable damage. His royal highness the prince of Wales gave another gold cup of the same value with the former, which was run for over the said Ham, and won by a horse the property of the right honourable lord Tracy.

1723. This year is memorable for a dry season, there being little or no rain from March to the middle

of November, which caused coals to be sold at the exorbitant price of 16s. per ton.

And, in the same year, a list was taken of all the men, women, and children inhabiting within this town, when it appeared that the number amounted to 2866, viz. males 1234, females 1632..

In 1724, the tenant or occupier of the locks and tonage within this parish, was chargeable by the poor levies after the rate of others of the inhabitants.

In the same year, the long roof of the church and other parts of it, were rebuilt and repaired by a brief granted by the right honourable lord chancellor Parker.

On the 30th of April, 1725, a Sturgeon, six feet five inches and a quarter long, and twenty-seven inches round, was caught in the Severn, between the upper and lower lodes.

1725. About Midsummer, good wheat sold for 3s. 4d. per bushel, but the wetness of the summer, and a great blight of the corn, caused it afterwards to be sold for 7s. 8d. the bushel. Five floods were on Severn, six on Avon, and ten on Swilgate, in the same year.

In the year 1726, an act of parliament was obtained for repairing the roads about Tewkesbury. In the same year, the altar piece was erected in the chancel, by private contribution, and the seats therein repaired.

The year 1727 was remarkable for the number of floods on the rivers Severn and Avon; there being not less than twenty, which did considerable damage.

1728. This summer proved so wet as to cause several very large floods, whereby much grass was spoiled. The fever was very prevalent among the inhabitants, supposed to be occasioned by the unfavourable season. Wheat sold for 9s 6d. the bushel, and had it not been for the vast quantities imported from abroad, it was generally believed there would not have been corn sufficient to have subsisted the country.

In 1729, sixty bushels of wheat were sold for 21l. and, in the same year, six bushels sold for 21s. Barley was also sold for 4s. the bushel, but before the season of malt-making was over, the same article for 22d. The summer of this year was remarkable for the number of persons that died of sore throats and fevers: those who were thus affected, were carried off in the space of twenty hours.

In 1731, the right honourable Anne, countess of Coventry, who resided at Strensham, gave a fine worked communion-table cloth and two cushions to the church, which are in present use.

On the 9th of April, 1734, the right honourable lord Gage, and Robert Tracy, esq. were elected to represent this borough in parliament. And in the same year lord Gage made a present of a fire engine to the corporation.

In 1735, a child of four years old (named John Newman) fell into the water wheel of the mill, at this town, while it was working; was carried under the wheel between the ladles, and very miraculously escaped injury. What is the more remarkable, it was only a space of two inches between the bottom of the wheel and the sheeting. *Vide Feoffee Book.*

1736. This year the foot pavement, on the church side of the way, from one end of the town to the other, being 900 yards in length, was promoted by the ladies, carried on by subscription, and begun and finished by the care and under the direction of W. Bromley, esq.

In 1737, the organ was erected in the church.

1739. On the 25th of December, a very severe frost began, and continued till the 19th of February following; during which time, the Severn was so hard frozen, that loaded waggons and horses passed over at the upper and lower lodes. A sheep was roasted on the ice above the quay bridge. Wheat advanced price from 5s. to 9s. 6d.; beans from 2s. to 5s. 7d. the bushel; and, hay from 15s. to 3l. per ton.

1741. A remarkably fine autumn. This year the right honourable lord Gage, and John Martin, esq. were elected members for this borough.

In the year 1743, wheat sold for 2s. 6d. barley 20d. and beans 22d. the bushel. On the 18th of August, in the same year (about three o'clock in the afternoon), was a violent storm of hail, which did great damage to the windows of the church and the houses in the town; to the former the damage was estimated at 50l. and to the latter 400l. Some of the hailstones are said to have measured five inches round.

On the 2d of April, 1745, a barge bound up Avon, going too near the fall of water (called the Stanchard) was taken down by the rapidity of the stream, but received very little damage, and was not sunk.

The same year, lord Gage and William Dowdes-

well, esq. were elected members for this borough, without opposition.

And, in the same year, four arches of the long bridge (next old Avon) were built with brick, in the room of the three wood ones which were there before.

1750. This year the church walk was paved by subscription. The iron gates at the entrance into the church were given by lord Gage. Those next the street, the wall, and the pallisadoes, were given by William Dowdeswell, esq.

1751. An act passed for the better regulating the navigation of the river Avon, and for ascertaining the rates of water-carriage upon the said river.

1754. A regulation was made in the weight of butter, by altering it from dishes to pounds.

The same year, John Martin, and Nicolson Calvert, esqrs. were chosen representatives in parliament for this borough.

1755. Mr. Martin subscribed 2000l. towards repairing the roads leading from this town, and Mr. Calvert 1500l. for the same laudable purpose.

When the new militia law was carried into execution in this county, in the years 1758, 1759, and 1760, one man out of every twenty-nine upon the lists, was taken, by ballot, throughout the county. Fourteen men were raised in Tewkesbury, which shews the comparative state of population, as far as the lists may be relied on.

On the 26th of March, 1761, and again on the 18th of March, 1768, fir William Codrington, bart. and Nicolson Calvert, esq. were elected to serve this borough in parliament.

The year 1770 produced the greatest flood ever remembered at Tewkesbury, occasioned by a prodigious fall of snow, which was succeeded by a heavy rain, that continued for three days and three nights, without intermission. On Saturday, the 17th of November, the water came up the Gander-lane and St. Mary's-lane, and met, in a place called the Bull-ring in Church-street. And on Sunday, the 18th, it rose so high, that large boats, with twelve or fourteen people at a time, were passing and repassing from the New Inn (now the Hop-Pole) to the Mason's-Arms; and other boats were employed in supplying with necessaries, those who were confined to their upper rooms. Seven or eight boats were often seen, at one time, in the street. In St. Mary's-lane the lower stories were entirely under water, and many of the inhabitants were taken out of their chamber windows, together with their beds and other furniture. The flood was also in the church, so that divine service could not be performed; and the graves in the church were shocking to behold, for scarce a stone was to be seen, that was not removed from its proper situation. Several parts of this venerable building were materially injured, particularly the large pillar next the seats of the corporation, and the arch over the same. Two houses, near the mills, were washed down, but, providentially, no lives were lost.

October 11, 1771, the tide flowed in Avon five inches perpendicular. An instance of the kind was probably never before seen.

In November 1772, was a great flood. The rivers rose to a very considerable height. This was a general flood.

The month of May, 1773, also, produced a very great inundation, so high, that, except the extraordinary flood of 1770, no overflow was ever remembered equal to this. On Thursday the 20th of May, the rivers Severn and Avon, with the brook Swilgate, came pouring down so rapidly, that before night the meadows were entirely under water. And, on Friday, the 21st, the water came up to the top of the Gander-lane, which greatly alarmed the inhabitants of that part of the town, lest it should come into their houses, as in the late high flood; but happily, on Saturday, it returned to its proper channel.

At the general election, on Saturday, October 8, 1774, sir William Codrington, and Joseph Martin, esq. were elected representatives in parliament, without opposition.

1775. Before harvest wheat sold at 8s. 6d. and 9s. per bushel; but, before Christmas, the same sort was sold for 5s. the bushel, owing in a great measure, to the vast quantities imported from foreign parts.

On September, in the same year, an earthquake was very sensibly felt in this town, a little after ten o'clock at night.

On the 6th of January 1776, was a prodigious fall of snow, which continued, with little intermission, 'till the 9th of the same month, when a very severe frost began, that lasted 'till the 1st of February, on which day a sudden thaw ensued, that occasioned a conside-

able inundation until the 13th of March following. The snow was amazingly deep, and in many places, being driven by the wind, houses were almost covered, and carriages buried in the road; particularly three waggons, attempting to go from hence to Cheltenham, lay for many days covered with snow. During this severe season Joseph Martin, esq. (one of the representatives) sent 100*l.* to be distributed among the poor of this parish.

March 30, in the same year, Joseph Martin, esq. departed this life. And, on Monday, the 8th of April following, his brother, James Martin, esq. was elected representative of this borough, without opposition.

In 1777, a subscription was set on foot by the inhabitants of this town, towards the reparation of the Stanway road, which subscription amounted to 317*l.* and 6*d.* In addition to this sum, John Martin, esq. of Ham Court, subscribed 100*l.* and James Martin, esq. 500*l.*

At the general election, on Monday, September 11, 1780, sir William Codrington, and James Martin, esq. were re-elected representatives for the borough, without opposition.

The winter of 1784 was very severe. It began snowing on Christmas day, 1783, and continued snowing and freezing, with little intermission, 'till the beginning of April. Notwithstanding which, there were great crops of hay and corn the next harvest, and the greatest fruit season known for many years; yet provisions of all kinds, except vegetables, bore very great prices.

On the 6th of April, the same year, sir William Codrington, and James Martin, esq. were again elected to serve this borough in parliament.

In 1787, the town, at a very heavy expence, was paved and lighted.

1788. On Wednesday morning, the 16th of July, our gracious sovereign, George III. the queen, the princesses Royal, Augusta, and Elizabeth, attended by lady viscountess Weymouth, lord Courtown, and the honourable colonel Digby, honoured this ancient borough with a visit. The king, and his attendants, on horseback; the queen, princesses, and lady Weymouth, in coaches. They were received with the most joyful acclamations; and every possible demonstration of loyalty was shewn on the occasion. The condescending behaviour of their majesties, when passing through the town, at once commanded the respect, and captivated the hearts, of the admiring spectators. The first place their majesties alighted to view was the Mythe Tute, that delightful little eminence situated on the Mythe hill (*See Mythe Hamlet, p. 70*). Upon their return through the town, they alighted to view that sacred and venerable pile of Gothic architecture,—the abbey church. The concourse of people assembled was very great; all anxious to behold their illustrious king, and his amiable consort. After having seen every thing worthy of observation, his majesty expressed great satisfaction, mounted his horse, and left this place amidst the reiterated plaudits of the multitude, (grateful for the honour conferred on them by a royal visit) and returned, with the queen and princesses, to Cheltenham to dinner, where they resided for the benefit of his majesty's health. In the evening the town was generally

and brilliantly illuminated, without the least disorder or irregularity,—all was harmony and joy, and each individual seemed desirous to rival the other in acts of respect and gratitude.

On Saturday the 26th, their majesties passed and repassed through this town, in their way to and from the seat of the earl of Coventry, at Croome; upon which occasion the inhabitants gave every proof of their loyalty and attachment to their sovereign. A grand triumphal arch was erected across the street, at the then Post Office, adorned and decorated with flowers, bays, and other evergreens, and with flags streaming. On the top of the arch his majesty's arms were placed, and beneath was the following inscription:

“ King George I. before his accession to the Throne,
was Baron of Tewkesbury.”

“ May the illustrious house of Hanover flourish to the
latest posterity.”

A band of music was placed on an eminence near the arch, who, as their majesties passed, played, *God save the King, &c.* and every other means were used to testify the pleasure received on this occasion*.

The Christmas of 1788, was memorable for a very hard and severe frost, accompanied with an extreme cold air. It began on the evening of the 23d of November, and continued without any effectual thaw

* Tewkesbury had the honour of several other visits from the Royal Party, during their stay at Cheltenham: but as no particular circumstance marked those excursions, the Editor presumes it might be thought trivial to give the days on which that honour was conferred.

until the 21st of January, 1789 (being eight weeks and three days), when the bridges of Worcester and Upton were cleared of the ice, so that the river Severn, which had been frozen from the 12th of December to this time (being five weeks and four days) became again navigable, and several barges, laden with coals, came in here, to the relief of the distressed poor, and joy of the inhabitants in general. The hardships of the poor people in this severe season, were extreme; but, to the everlasting honour of the ladies and gentlemen of this town and neighbourhood; be it recorded, that they did every thing in their power to alleviate the distresses of their fellow-creatures, in causing coals and bread to be distributed among them. James Martin, esq. one of the representatives, sent 100 guineas for the same purpose.

On the 22d of June, 1789, the rivers Severn and Avon overflowed their banks, and continued rising till the 27th. Great quantities of hay were lost or spoiled, and the damage done to the farmers and others in and near this place, was very considerable. The roads leading from the town were all under water, and boats were employed on the long-bridge for the more ready conveyance of foot passengers.

1790. On Friday the 18th of June, sir William Codrington and James Martin, esq. from the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in them; were again re-elected to serve this borough in parliament.

On the 11th of March, 1792, died sir William Codrington, six successive Parliaments member for Tewkesbury. He was succeeded by his nephew, William Dowdeswell, esq.

1792. On Thursday morning the 19th of April, occasioned by a great fall of rain, the rivers were swollen to an amazing degree, overflowing all the low grounds, by which much damage was sustained. The water rose to the astonishing height of sixteen feet perpendicular in twenty-four hours: a rise so rapid in the Severn and Avon, could not be remembered by the oldest man living.

This year an act of parliament was obtained for the better relief and employment of the poor.

1793. The floodgate pit at the quay-emptied.

1794. A very severe frost commenced on the 23d of December, and continued with little intermission till the 7th of February following. A sudden thaw took place on the 5th, which occasioned a greater inundation than had been known for many years, and did very great damage to the roads and bridges. At the height of the flood the water rose to within a few inches of the memorable inundation of 1770. During this inclement season, the benevolence of the inhabitants was very liberally exerted in behalf of the poor house-keepers.

In May 1796, James Martin and William Dowdeswell, esqrs. were returned members for this borough. The election was contested by Peter Moore and Philip Francis, esqrs. who insisted, amongst other things, that no honorary freeman had right to vote, and that by the construction of the charter, the inhabitants at large had that right; but upon these being rejected by the returning officers, a petition was presented to the House of Commons against the return; and in consequence a

select committee was appointed to determine the merits of the petition.

The statement given in by the Petitioners was, that the right of election was in the Bailiffs, Burgeffes, and Commonalty; meaning, by the word *Burgeffes*, such persons as are entitled to their freedom by servitude or copy; and by the word *Commonalty*, the inhabitant householders of the borough.

The sitting members stated the right of election to be in the freemen, and in any person seised of an estate of freehold, in an entire dwelling within the said borough.

These statements were both negatived. The committee determining, that the right of election was in the freemen *at large*, and in all persons seised of an estate of freehold, in an entire dwelling house, within the *ancient limits* of the said borough; declared the sitting members to be duly elected, and that that part of the petition which related to the conduct of the returning officers, was frivolous and vexatious.

In December 1797, in consequence of the appointment of Colonel Dowdeswell to the government of the Bahama islands, his seat in parliament for this borough was vacated; and Christopher Codrington, Peter Moore, and George Tollet, esqrs. were candidates to succeed him. Mr. Codrington was elected by a very considerable majority; but a rumour having prevailed, that he had been previously appointed one of the bailiffs of the borough, Mr. Moore, on the ground of that report, again presented a petition to the House of Commons, complaining of an undue election.

This petition came on to be heard before a committee, appointed for that purpose, in the month of May following; when, it appearing, on the examination of Mr. Moore's own evidence, that there was not the least foundation for such petition, his counsel, on the second day, declined proceeding any further, when the committee resolved that Mr. Codrington was duly elected, and that the petition was frivolous and vexatious.

By the former determination, the right of election for the borough is finally settled.

Mr. Moore petitioned against the determination in respect to the right of election, under the Stat. of 23 Geo. III. c. 52, but withdrew his petition.





HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

OF

TEWKESBURY.

PART II.

SURRENDER OF THE MONASTERY OF TEWKESBURY TO KING HENRY VIII.

THE causes which led to the dissolution of the religious houses in this kingdom, are too well known to require any elucidation; but the particulars of the surrender of the Abbey of Tewkesbury are so intimately connected with the subject of our little volume, that they cannot fail to be interesting. It was the last of the monastic establishments in the county of Gloucester that yielded to the irresistible power of king Henry VIII. and the abbot appears to have gained a mitre by his obedience.

The surrender was made under the convent seal, by John Wich, alias Wakeman, the abbot, with fifteen of his monks, the ninth day of January, 1539, and in

the thirty-first year of that king's reign; to Robert Southwell, esq. William Petre, Edward Kairn, and John London, doctors of law; John ap Price, John Kingsman, Richard Paulett, and William Bernars, esqrs. commissioners, assigned by his said majesty to take the surrender of divers monasteries, by force of his majesty's commission to them, or any six, five, four, or three of them in that behalf directed, and dated at Westminster, the seventh of November, in the said thirty-first year of his reign; as well of those monasteries by his majesty appointed to be altered; as of those to be dissolved, according to the tenor and effect of his majesty's commission, with instructions to them likewise delivered, as by certificate under the above-named commissioners appears. The introduction to which surrender was in form following:—

*“ To all Christian People to whom these presents shall
 “ come, We the abbot, &c. and brothers of the said monas-
 “ tery, send greeting. Know ye, that we, upon full consi-
 “ deration, certain knowledge, and mere motion, and for
 “ divers causes just and reasonable, moving our souls and
 “ consciences, have freely and voluntarily given and
 “ granted to our lord the king, &c.”*

The clear yearly value of all the possessions belonging to the said late monastery, as well spiritual as temporal, besides 136l. 8s. 1d. granted in fees and annuities to several persons by letters patent, under the convent seal for their lives, was 1595l. 17s. 6d.

The pensions assigned by the commissioners to the abbot and other members of that monastery were as follow:—

| | £. | s. | d. |
|--|-------|-----|-----|
| To John Wich, alias Wakeman, the late abbot - - - | 266 | 13 | 4 |
| To John Beoly, late prior there - | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| To John Bromesgrove, late prior at Deer- hurst - - - | 13 | 6 | 8 |
| To Robert Circefter, late prior of St. James, Bristol - - - | 13 | 6 | 8 |
| To William Didcot, the late prior of Cranburne - - - | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| To Robert Cheltenham, B. D. - | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| To two monks, 8l. each - | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| To one monk - - - | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| To twenty-seven monks, each 6l. 13s. 4d. | 180 | 0 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | £. | 532 | 6 8 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| Remains clear, £. | 1063 | 10 | 10 |
| | <hr/> | | |

The keys of the treasury were delivered to Rich. Paulett, receiver; but the records and evidences belonging to the monastery, which were deposited therein, and the houses and buildings assigned to remain undefaced, were committed to the custody and care of John Whittington, knight. A particular of which houses and buildings so preserved, is as under-mentioned:—

The lodging, called Newark, leading from the gate to the late abbot's lodging, with the buttery, pantry, cellar, kitchen, larder, and pastry thereto adjoining; the late abbot's lodging; the hofrey; the great gate entering into the court, with the lodging over the same; the abbot's stable, bake-house, brew-house, and slaugh-

ter-house; the almary, barn*, dairy-house; the great barn next Avon; the malt house, with the garners in the same; the ox-house in the barton gate, and the lodging over the same.

The buildings deemed to be superstitious and superfluous, and fit to be destroyed, were also committed to the said John Whittington, knight, and were as follow:—

The church†; with the chapels, cloister; chapter-house, the two dormitories; the infirmary, with chapels and lodgings within the same; the work-house, with another house adjoining to the same; the convent kitchen; the library; the misericord; the old hostrey; the chambers, lodgings; the new hall; the old parlour adjoining to the abbot's lodging; the cellarer's or butler's lodging; the poultry house; the garner; the almary, and all other houses and lodgings not before reserved.

The following account contains all the different materials belonging to the late monastery, and which were seized by the commissioners for his majesty's use:—

The leads remaining upon the choir, isles, and chapels annexed; the cloister, chapter-house, frater, St. Michael's chapel, halls, infirmary, and gate-house, were esteemed to be — 180 fodder.

* The remains of this barn are still visible.

† Fortunately, however, the church, with its appendages, was preserved, and made parochial.

The bells remaining in the steeple were eight
poize by estimation — 14600 wt.

The jewels reserved for his majesty's use were,

Two mitres gilt, garnished with rugged pearl, and
counterfeit stones.

The silver plate reserved for his majesty's use was,

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Silver gilt | 329 oz. |
| Parcel of ditto | 605 |
| Plain silver | 497 |

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Total of oz. | 1431 |
|--------------|------|

The ornaments reserved for his majesty's use were,

One cope of silver tissue, with one chesible and
tunicle of the same; one cope of gold tissue, with one
chesible and two tunicles of the same.

The ornaments, goods, and chattels belonging to
the said late monastery, were sold by the said commis-
sioners, as in a book of sales thereof made appears, for
the sum of — — 194l. 8s. Od.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| To money given to thirty-eight religious persons of the said monastery | — | — | 80 | 13 | 4 |
|---|---|---|----|----|---|

| | | | | |
|---|---|----|----|---|
| To one hundred and forty-four ser- vants of the said late monastery, for their wages and liveries | — | 75 | 10 | 0 |
|---|---|----|----|---|

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|---|
| Paid the debts of the said monastery | 18 | 12 | 0 |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|---|

| | | |
|--------|----|---|
| £. 174 | 15 | 4 |
|--------|----|---|

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|---|
| Remains clear, £. | 19 | 12 | 8 |
|-------------------|----|----|---|

NOTE, For a particular account of the lands and possessions belonging to the late monastery of Tewkesbury, vide *A Record in the Augmentation-Office, dated 33 H. VIII. proved in the cause Wriggan and Aubrey, 1576.*

A general account of the Ecclesiastical Livings in the gift of the Monastery of Tewkesbury:—

| | Parsonages. | Vicarages. |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Glocestershire | 4 | 10 |
| Worcestershire | 2 | 2 |
| Warwickshire | 2 | 0 |
| Wiltshire and Bristol | 5 | 3 |
| Oxfordshire | 1 | 2 |
| Somerfetshire | 3 | 0 |
| Devonshire | 0 | 1 |
| Cornwall | 0 | 2 |
| Glamorgan | 0 | 5 |
| Dorsetshire | 4 | 2 |
| | — | — |
| | 21 | 27 |
| | — | — |

The Arms of Tewkesbury Abbey were, *Gules within a border argent, a cross ragule Or.* Thus they are blazoned in Willis's Seals of Parliamentary Abbeys, and engraven in Tanner's Notitia Monastica, and in Reyner's Hist. Benedict.; but in the chancel window, and on the organ, they are simply *Gules, a cross ragule Or.*

CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES OF THE ABBOTS OF
TEWKESBURY.

IT is still a disputed point, whether this Abbey was strictly peeral or not. Fuller, in his Church History, seems to doubt if the abbot had a voice in parliament, while Bishop Godwin, in his Annals, allows that he had a seat. Sir Robert Atkyns informs us, that the abbot of Tewkesbury was summoned to parliament in the reigns of Hen. III. Edw. I. and II.; though the Abbey, he says, was not peeral. However, it is certain that the last abbot sat among the number of mitred or parliamentary abbots. Hence we may infer, that if they had not a prescriptive right to a seat, they frequently enjoyed it by summons.

Their names and the dates of their admission, are as follow :

1104. GIRALD was appointed the first abbot, by the founder. He had previously been abbot of Cranburne. *He resigned his abbacy in 1109, and returned

* "Girald, the chaplain of Hugh earl of Chester, when he came to Guenta, took upon him the order of a monk in the ancient monastery of St. Peter in that place; some time afterwards he was canonically promoted to the government of the church of Tewkesbury, whereof he was the first Abbat, Sampson being then Bp. of Worcester. Robert Fitz-Hamon had built there a stately monastery to St. Mary, near the Severn, and had endowed it with great riches, in the reign of William the Second, king of England."

ECCLES. HIST. ORDERIC VITALIS, p. 600.

to Winchester, where he had been formerly a monk. Whereupon, the year following

1110. ROBERT was made abbot. He died in 1124, and was succeeded by

1124. BENEDICT, who dying in 1137, was succeeded by

1137. ROGER, sometimes called Robert. He died in 1161, whereupon

1162. FROMUND was made abbot. He died in 1178. In his time the church of Tewkesbury was burnt. At this place appears a large vacancy, for

1182. ROBERT, the next abbot, did not receive the benediction, 'till some time in Sept. 1182. He died the next year. Whereupon here seems another vacancy, for it appears that

1187. ALAN*, prior of Canterbury, received not the benediction 'till the year 1187. Upon his decease, which happened in 1202,

1202. WALTER was made abbot. Who dying in 1213, was succeeded by

1213. HUGH, prior of this place. He died in 1214, and was succeeded by

1215. BERNARD, a monk of this place; but his election not being approved, he was succeeded by

* It appears from an old Book, in which is an account of the Gentlemen of Eminency in this County, that Alan of Tewkesbury, was a man of great learning, and one of the four authors who wrote the life of Thomas Becket, with his passion and miracles, to promote his canonization.

1216. PETER, a monk of Worcester, in 1216. He died in 1232, and had for his successor

1232. ROBERT FORTINGTON, prior of this place. He died in 1253, and was succeeded by

1253. THOMAS STOKES, who died in 1275. His successor was

1276. RICHARD DE NORTON. He died in 1282, and was succeeded by

1282. THOMAS KEMSEY. Upon whose decease in 1328,

1328. JOHN COTES was made abbot. He died in 1347, and his successor was

1347. THOMAS DE LEGH; who died in 1361, and was succeeded by

1362. THOMAS CHESTERTON; who dying in 1389, had for his successor

1390. THOMAS PARKER, who was a great benefactor to this monastery. Among other pious works he built a curious stone chapel over the founder's grave, and appointed a daily mass to be said for his and his wife's souls. He died in 1412, and was succeeded by

1414. WILLIAM BRISTOW. He died in 1442, and was succeeded by

1443. JOHN ABINGDON; whose successor was

1468. JOHN DE SALYS. When he died is uncertain, but his successor was

JOHN STRENSHAM. In his time, it is supposed by some, the Abbey was made parliamentary. He died in 1481, and was succeeded by

1481. RICHARD CHELTENHAM; who died in 1509 He was succeeded the same year by

1509. HENRY BEOLY. It does not appear when he died, but his successor is said to be

1531. JOHN WICH*, alias WAKEMAN, the last abbot of this monastery, and the first bishop of Gloucester†. He was consecrated to that see, Sept. 20, 1541.

The following manor places belonged to the abbots of Tewkesbury.

Stanway, which was re-edified and enlarged by abbot Cheltenham.

Forthampton, on the right bank of the Severn, about a mile below Tewkesbury.

And, Tewkesbury Park manor place, standing on the left bank of the Severn.

* By other accounts John Walker succeeded Henry Beoly, and died in 1531, and was buried in this monastery under a marble stone with his coat of arms, and that he was succeeded the same year by John Wich, alias Wakeman. This is confirmed by a manuscript in the Herald's Office.

† John Wich, alias Wakeman, died about the beginning of November 1549, having in his life-time erected a tomb for his place of burial, in Tewkesbury church, in the north side of a little chapel behind the high altar. But Godwin says, he was buried at Worthington (meaning Wormington in Gloucestershire) though Wood rather thinks at Forthampton in the said county, where he had a house and chapel.

PARTICULARS OF THE BATTLE OF TEWKESBURY, WITH
SOME REMARKS ON THE EVENT.

“ Heard ye the din of battle bray,
“ Lance to lance and horse to horse?
“ Long years of havoc urge their destin’d course,
“ And thro’ the kindred squadrons mow their way.”

GRAY’S BARD, *alluding to the ruinous civil wars
of the houses of York and Lancaster.*

IT is universally acknowledged, that no event in history requires a more faithful or minute description than that of a military conflict. The important quarrel of the two roses, is allowed to be an interesting epoch, and the battle of Tewkesbury is certainly one of its most considerable events. This battle having been very superficially represented by historians of modern date, the Editor presumes that the description of Holinshed, (the father of English history, and whose works are as rare as they are invaluable,) as being more copious and satisfactory than that of any other author, will be deemed the most desirable by the generality of his readers, notwithstanding the antiquity of the language.

“ Queene Margaret and hir sonne prince Edward, with the other that landed at Weimouth, went from thence to an abbeie neere by called Ceerne. Thither came vnto them Edmund duke of Summerfet, and Thomas Courtneie earle of Deuonshire, with others, and welcommed them into England, comforting the queene in the best manner they could, and willed hir not to despaire of good successe; for albeit they had lost

one field* (whereof the queene had knowledge ; the same day being Mondai in Easter weeke, the fifteenth of Aprill, and was therefore right sorrowfull) yet they doubted not but to assemble such a puissance (and that verie shortly) foorth of diuerse parts of the realme, as being faithfull, and wholie bent to spend their liues, and shed the best bloud in their bodies for hir sake, and hir sonnes, it should be hard for king Edward to resist them with all the power he had or could make.

“The presence of these noble men greatly comforted hir, and relieved hir of the sorrowes that in maner ouerwhelmed hir pensive heart: for she doubted sore the end of all these proceedings, the which they concluded to follow vpon the aduancement of hir and hers. Speciallie it misgaue hir, that some euill should chance to hir sonne prince Edward, for shee greatly weid not of hir owne perill. (as she hir self confessed) and therefore she would gladly haue had them either to have deferred the battell till a more convenient time: or else that hir sonne might haue been conueied ouer into France againe, there to haue remained in safetie, till the chance of the next battell were tried: but they being of a contrarie mind, and namelie the duke of Summerfet, she at length consented vnto that which they were resolved vpon.

“Thus euerie man being bent to battell, gathered his power by himselfe, first in Summerfetshire, Dorsetshire; and part of Wiltshire, and after in Deuonshire and Cornewall. For the better encouraging of which countries to ioine with them in their quarrell, they re-

paired to Exceſter. Here they ſent for Sir John Arundell, and ſir Hugh Courtenei, and manie other in whom they had anie confidence. To be ſhort, they wrought ſo, that they raiſed the whole powers of Cornewall and Deuonſhire, and with a great armie departing forth of Exceſter, they tooke the right waie to Glaſtenburie, and from thence to Bath, raiſing the people in all parts where they came: for thoſe countries had bene ſo laboured, firſt by the earle of Warwike, and after by the duke of Summerſet, and the earl of Deuonſhire (which two noble men were reckoned as old inheritors of the ſame countries) that the people ſeemed then greatly inclined to the fauor of king Henrie.

“ King Edward, being at London, was dailie aduertified by faithfull eſpials of all the dooings of his aduerſaries, and was in no ſmall agonie, bicauſe he could not learne what waie his enimies ment to take, for he purpoſed to incounter them in one place or other, before they ſhould approach neere to London. And vpon ſuch reſolution, with ſuch an armie as he had got about London, furniſhed with all artillerie and other prouiſions neceſſarie, he ſet forward the nineteenth of Aprill, and came to Windſore, where he ſtaied a ſeaſon, as well to celebrate the feaſt of Saint George, as to abide the coming of ſuch bands as he had appointed to repaire thither vnto him, making there his general aſſembly.

“ The enimies to maſker him the more, ſent forth their foreriders vnto ſundrie townes, both as well to raiſe people in the countries about, as to make the king belecue that their purpoſe was to paſſe thoſe waies, where they ment not once to come. And herevpon when they departed from Exceſter, they ſent firſt their

foreriders fireight to Shaftesburie, and after to Salisburie, and then they tooke the fireight waie to Taunton, Glastenburie, and after to Wels, where houerling about in the countrie, they sent another time their foreriders to a towne called Yuell, and to Bruton, as if their meaning had beene to draw towards Reading, and so through Barkeshire, and Oxfordshire, to haue marched fireight to London, or else to haue set vpon the king at some aduantage, if it were offered.

“ But king Edward, considering aduisedlie of the matter, perceined well that they being in an angle of the realme, if they ment to go to London, they must either hold the fireight waie soorth by Salisburie, or else drawing vp to the sea side, passe alongst through Hampshire, Suffex, and Kent; or happilie if they mistrusted their owne strengths, as not able to match with his puissance, they would then slip on the left hand, and draw towards Cheshire, and Lancashire, there to increase their forces, and peraduenture by the waie to ioine with a power of Welshmen, vnder the leading of Jasper earle of Pembroke, who had beene sent into Wáles long afore, to frame and put in readiness the people there to assist king Henries friends at their coming thitherwards. And such was there purpose in deed, for they had great confidence in such aid, as they trusted to haue of the Cheshire and Lancashire men.

“ King Edward, meaning to approach neerer vnto them, that he might the sooner make waie to stop them of their passage, on which hand soeuer they drew, departed from Windefore the morrow after Saint George's day, being the foure and twentieth day of Aprill, keeping fourth his journey, till on Saturdaie the twentie and

ſeventh of Aprill he came to Abington, where he laie Sundaie all daie. On Mondaie he marched forward to Chicheſter*, where he had ſure aduertifement that they intended to be at Bath the next daie being Tueſdaie, and on Wedneſdaie to come forward to give him battell. Wherevpon king Edward, deſirous to ſee his people in order of battell, drew them forth of the towne, and incamped in the field three miles diſtant from thence, ſtill buſieing himſelfe about his neceſſarie affaires, affoording no time to idleneſſe or loitering: for he knew that there was no waie more expedite and readie to tire him in trauell, than to be given to negligence and ſlouth, the two weariers of well dooing, as the old ſaieing is:

“ Deſidia preſſus erit in ſtudio cito feſſus.”

“ On the morrow, hearing no certaintie of their coming forward, he marched to Malmesburie, ſtill ſeeking to incounter them: but heere he had knowledge that they hauing changed their purpoſe, ment not to giue him battell; and therefore were turned aſide and gone to Briſtow, where they were receiued, releued, and well reſreſhed by ſuch as fauoured their cauſe, as well with vittels, men, and monie, as good ſtore of artillerie. Where vpon they were ſo encouraged, that the Thurſdaie after they tooke the field againe, purpoſing to give king Edward battell indeed; and for the ſame intent had ſent their foreriders to a towne, diſtant from Briſtow nine miles, called Sudburie, appointing a ground for their field, a mile from the ſame towne, toward the king's campe, called Sudburie hill.

* Cirenceſter.

“ The king heereof aduertised, the same Thursdaie, being the first of Maie, with his armie faire ranged in order of battell, came towards the place by them appointed for their field: but they came not there. For hearing that king Edward did thus approach, vpon a new change of resolution, they left that waie: albeit some of their herbingers were come as farre as Sudburie towne, and there surprised fise or six of the king's partie, which were rashlie entred that towne, attending onlie to prouide lodgings for their masters. The lords thus hauing eftsoones* changed their purpose, not meaning as yet to fight with the king, directed their waie streight towards Berkelie, traouelling all that night. From Berkelie they marched forward towards Glocester.

“ The king in the mean time, on the Thursdaie in the after noone, came to the same ground called Sudburie hill, and there staied a certeine space, sending forth scowriers, to hearken what they might vnderstand of the enimies, whom he tooke to be some where at hand. But when he could not heare any certentie of them, he aduanced forward, lodging his vant-gard in a vallie beyond the hill, towards the towne of Sudburie, and laie himselfe (with the residue of his people) at the same place, called Sudburie hill. About three of the clock after midnight, he was aduertised, that his enimies had taken their waie by Berkelie, towards Glocester. Heerevpon taking aduise of his council what was best to doo, he was counselled to send some of his

* EFTSOONES, from *eft* an ancient British word signifying *soon*. So that *eftsoones* is a doubling of the word *soon*, which is, as it were, to say *twice soon*, or *very soon*.

feruants with all speed vnto Glocester, to Richard Beauchampe, sonne and heire to the lord Beauchampe of Powike, to whome he had (before this present) committed the rule and custodie of the towne and castell of Glocester.

“ The king sent therefore with all speed vnto him, commanding him to doo his best to defend the towne and castell against his enimies, if they came to assail the same, as it was supposed they intended: and if they so did, he promised to come with his whole armie presentlie to the rescue. The messengers did their dilligence, and so being ioifullie receiued into Glocester, the towne and castell, by the vigilant regard of the said Richard Beauchampe, was put in safe keeping. And this message was doone in good time, for true it is, there were diuerse in the towne, that could haue beene well contented that the queene, and the lords with hir, should haue beene receiued there, and would haue aduentered to haue brought to passe, if they had not beene thus preuented.

“ Againe, the queene and the lords with hir had good intelligence, with diuerse in the towne, so as they were put in great hope to haue entred the same: wherevpon they trauelled their people right fore all that night and morning, comming before the towne of Glocester vpon the Fridaie about ten of the clocke. And when they perceiued that they were disappointed of their purpose, and their entrie flatlie denied, they were highlie therewith displeased; for they knew verie well, that diuerse within the towne bare their good

willes towards them; but after they had vsed certeine menacing braueries, and made a shew as if they had meant to assalt the gates and walles, and so to haue entred by force, they departed their waies, marching with all speed possible towards Teukesburie.

“ It might be maruelled at, whie they attempted not the winning of Glocester indeed, considering the freends which they knew they had within it. But the cause which moued them chieflie to forbear, was, for that as well they without, as the other within the towne, knew that king Edward approached at hand, and was ready to set upon them on the backes, if they had once begun to haue assaulted the towne; and so, neither they within the towne that were the kings freends doubted the enimies forces, nor the enimie indeed durst attempt anie such en'erprise against them. About foure of the clocke in the afternoone, they came to Teukesburie, hauing trauelled that night last past, and that daie, fix and thirtie long miles, in a foule countrie, all in lanes and sionie waies, betwixt woods, without anie good refreshing, so that as well the men as the horses were right wearie.

“ And where the more part of their armie consisted of footmen, the capteins could not haue gone anie further, except they would haue left their footmen behind them, and so of necessity they were driuen to staie there, determining to abide the aduenture that God would send them. For well they knew that the king followed them verie neere at hand, so as if they should haue gone further, and left the most part of their companie behind, as it could not otherwise haue chanced, he would haue been readie to haue taken the

advantage wholie, so to distresse them*. Heerevpon they pight their field in a close†, even hard at the

* Rapin says, "Edward so closely pursued them, that upon their arrival at Tewkesbury. they consulted whether they should venture to pass the river, at the peril of seeing their rear put to rout, or intrench themselves in a park adjoining to the town, till the earl of Pembroke arrived. The queen, who thought only of saving the prince, was for passing. Some others, more out of complaisance to her than for any good reason, seconded her opinion. But the duke of Somerset strenuously opposed it. He represented the enemy was so near, that before the army had all passed, he would certainly have it in his power to attack them and cut in pieces those who should have the misfortune to be left behind: That such an accident, which seemed unavoidable, could not but prove very fatal, and discourage such as were still friends to the house of Lancaster: In fine, though their army was inferior in number to that of the enemy, that disadvantage might be repaired by intrinching in the park, and drawing lines which would balance the superiority of his troops. After mature deliberation, this opinion was thought most adviseable, considering the circumstances of time and place. Historians, of whom few understand the art of war, have taxed the duke of Somerset with imprudence and rashness, solely because they considered not the difficulty of passing a river like the Severn, with the enemy in the rear. But if that general had been guilty of no other fault, perhaps the queen's affairs would have taken another turn. At least she might have waited the earl of Pembroke's arrival, and by fighting upon equal terms, caused her enemy to run his share of the peril. This the sequel will demonstrate."

HIST. OF ENG. p. 614.

† Called the Vineyard; which William of Malmesbury, in his *Book de Pontificibus*, alludes to when celebrating the Vineyards of this county. The Wines of which, he says, are "little inferior in sweet verdure to the French Wines." Vineyards are frequently described in *Domesday Book*, and tythes of wines are frequently alluded to in the records of cathedrals as objects of importance. But those improvements (according to Williams's *Monmouthshire*) disappeared in consequence of the devastations of the Saxons, the policy

townes end, hauing the towne and abbeie at their backes; and directlie before them, and upon each side of them, they were defended with cumberfome lanes, deepe ditches, and manie hedges, beside hils and dales, so as the place seemed as noisome as might be to approach vnto.

“ The king, on this Fridaie, verie erlie in the morning, aduanced his standards, and in good order of battel, hauing diuided his armie into three wards, marched through the plaines of Cottelwould. The daie was verie hot, and hauing in his armie above three thousand footmen, he trauelled with them and the residue thirtie miles and more. By all which waie they could find neither horffemeat, nor man's meat, no not so much as water for their horffes, except one little brooke, of the which they receined no great releeve; for what with the horffes and carriages that passed thorough it, the water became so troubled, that it serued them to no use: and still all that daie king Edward with his armie was within fise or six miles of his enemies, he in the plaine countrie and they among the woods.

“ King Edward had ever good espials, to aduertise him still what his enemies did, and which waie they tooke. At length he came with all his armie vnto

of the Norman times, the negotiations of the French Monarchs, a passion for conquering France, and a taste for its superior productions.

This field is remarkable for a very fine echo, occasioned, as it is supposed, by a subterraneous passage from thence under the Swilgate to the church.

a village called Chilternham, like a five miles distant from Teukesberie, where he had certaine knowledge that his enimies were alreadie come to Teuketberie, and were incamped there, purposing to abide him in that place, and to deliuer him battell. King Edward therevpon made no long delaie but tooke a little refection himselfe, and caused his people to doo the like, with such prouision of vittels as he had appointed to be conueied forth with him for the releefe of himselfe and his armie. This doone he set forward towards his enimies, and lodged that night in a field not past three miles distant from them.

“On the morrow being Saturdaie, and fourth of Maie, he drew towards his enimies, and marshalled his armie, diuided into three battels in this sort. He put his brother the duke of Glocester in the fore-ward, and himselfe in the middle-ward. The lord marques, and the lord Hastings led the rere-ward. Herewith he approached the enimies campe, which was right hard to be assailed, by reason of the deepe ditches, hedges, trees, bushes, and cumbersome lanes, wherewith the same was fenced, both a front, and on the sides, so as the king could not well approach them to anie aduantage: and to be the better in a readinesse to beat backe the kings power, when he should come to assault them, they were imbattelled in this order.

“The duke of Summerset, and his brother the lord John of Summerlet led the fore-ward. The middle-ward was gouerned by the prince, vnder the conduct of the lord of saint John, and the lord Wenlocke (whome king Edward had aduanced to the degree of a baron.) The rere-ward was appointed to the rule of the earl of Deuonshire. Thus may yee perceiue,

that king Edward was put to his shifts, how (to anie aduantage) to assault his enimies. Neuerthelesse, he being well furnished with artillerie, the same was applied lodged to annoie the enimies, that they receiued great damage thereby; and the duke of Glocester, who lacked no policie, galled them greiuously with the shot of arrowes: and they rewarded their aduersaries home againe with like painment, both with shot of arrowes, and great artillerie, although they had not the like plentie of guns as the king had. The passages were so cumbersome, that it was not possible to come vpon anie euen hand, to ioine at hand-blowes.

“ The duke of Glocester, vpon a politike purpose (as some haue written) reculed backe with all his companie, which when the duke of Summerfet perceined, either moued therewith, or else because he was too fore annoied with the shot in that place where he and his fore-ward stood, like a knight more couragious than circumspect, came out of his strength with his whole battell, and aduanced himselfe somewhat aside, slips the kings voward, and by certeine passages aforehand, and for that purpose prouided, (to the king's part, although vnkown) he passed a lane and came into a faire open close*, right before the king, where he was imbattelled, not doubting but the prince and the lord Wenlocke, with the middle-ward, had followed iust at his backe. But whether the lord Wenlocke dissembled the matter for king Edward's sake, or whether his hart serued him not, still he stood, and gaue the looking on.

“ The king, or (as other haue) the duke of Glocester, taking the aduantage that he aduentured for,

* Glaston Meadow.

turned againe face to face vnto the duke of Summerſet his battell, and winning the hedge and ditch of him, entred the cloſe, and with great violence put him and his people vp towards the hill from whence they were deſcended. Heere is to be noted, that when the king was come before his enimies, yer he gaue the onſet, he perceiued that vpon the right hand of their campe there was a parke, and much ſtore of wood growing therein; and doubting leaſt his aduerſaries had laid an ambuſh within that wood, he choſe foorth of his companies two hundred ſpeares, commanding them to keep a ſtale, like a quarter of a mile from the field, to attend vpon that corner of the wood out of the which the ambuſh, if anie were, was to iſſue, and to incounter with them as occaſion ſerued: but if they perceiued that there was no ambuſh at all, then to imploie their ſeruiſe as they ſhould ſee it expedient and behouefull for the time.

“ This politike prouiſſion for danger that might haue enſued (although there was none that waie foorth) ſerued yet before the end of the battell, to great good purpoſe, For when thoſe ſpeares perfectlie vnderſtood that there was no ambuſh within the wood, and withall ſaw conuenient time to imploie themſelues, they came and brake with full random vpon the duke of Summerſet and his voward a flanke, in ſo violent wiſe vpon the ſudden, that where they had before enough to doo with thoſe with whom they were firſt matched, now with this new charge giuen on them by thoſe two hundred ſpeares, they were not a little diſmaied; and to conclude, ſo diſcouraged, that ſtreight-waie they took them to flight. Some fled into the parke, other into the meadow there at hand, ſome into

the lanes, and some hid them in ditches, each one making what shift he could, by the which he hoped best to escape: but manie neuerthelesse were beaten downe, slaine, and taken prisoners.

“ The duke of Summerfet seeing this vnfortunate chance, as some write, turned to the middle ward, and there finding the lord Wenlocke standing still, after he had reuiled him, and called him traitor, with his ax he stroke the brains out of his head. The duke of Gloucester pursuing after them that fled with the duke of Summerfet to their campe, where the rest of their armie stood, entred the trench, and after him the king, where he bare himselfe so knightlie, that therevpon the queens part went to wracke, and was put to flight; the king and other falling in chafe after them, so that manie were slaine, but especiallie at a mill in the meadow fast by the towne a great fort were drowned. Many ran towards the towne, some to the church, and diuerse to the abbeie, and other to other places, where they thought best to saue themselues. [This was the last fought field or pight battell tried between the potentats of this land in king Edward the fourths daies (which chanced on the fourth of Maie, being Saturdaie, in the eleauenth yeare of his reigne, and in the yeare of our Lord, 1471) as *Anglorum prælia* affirmeth, saieng :

Vltima postremæ locus est Teuxburia pugnae.]

“ In the winning of the campe, such as stood to it were slaine out of hand, prince Edward was taken as he fled towards the towne, by sir Richard Crofts, and kept close. In the field and chafe were slaine, the lord John of Summerfet, called marquesse Dorset, Thomas Courtenie earle of Deuonshire, sir John Delues,

ſir Edward Hampden; ſir Robert Whitingham, and ſir John Leukener, with three thouſand others. After the field was ended, proclamation was made, that whoſoever could bring forth prince Edward alive or dead, ſhould have an annuities of a hundred pounds during his life, and the princes life to be ſaved, if he were brought forth alive. Sir Richard Crofts, nothing miſtrusting the king's promiſe, brought forth his priſoner prince Edward, being a faire and well proportioned yoong gentleman; whom when king Edward had well aduised, he demanded of him, how he durſt ſo preſumptuouſlie enter into his realme with banner diſplayed.

“Wherevnto the prince boldlie answered, ſaieng; To recouer my fathers kingdome and heritage, from his father and grandfather to him, and from him after him to me lineallie deſcended. At which words king Edward ſaid nothing, but with his hand thruſt him from him, or (as ſome ſaie) ſtroke him with his gantlet; whom incontinentlie, George Duke of Clarence, Richard Duke of Gloceſter, Thomas Greie, marqueſſe Dorcet, and William lord Haſtings that ſtood by, ſuddenlie murdered*: for the which cruell act, the more part

* Rapin ſays, “I do not know whether the hiſtorians are to be credited, who affirm, theſe lords killed him with their own hands. This might be an effect of the prejudice of thoſe that wrote the hiſtory, after the reſtoration of the houſe of Lancaſter, ſince it is certain they have forgot nothing to render the houſe of York odious. It is likely however, the murder was committed in the preſence of the fore-mentioned lords.”

HIST. OF ENG. p. 615.

The prince of Wales is ſaid to have been murdered in the houſe now occupied by Mr. Thomas Brown, mercer.

of the dooers in their latter daies dranke of the like cup, by the righteous iustice and due punishment of God. His bodie was homelie interred with the other simple corpses, in the church of the monasterie of blacke monks in Teukefburie*.

“ After the victorie was thus atchieued, the king repaired to the abbeie church there, to give God thanks for that good successe, which it had pleased him to blesse him with : and there finding a great number of his enimies, that were fled thither to saue themselves, he gave them all his free pardon: albeit there was no franchise there for rebels, but that he might haue commanded them to haue beene drawen forth without breach of anie liberties of that church. He granted also that the dead bodies, as well of the lords as other, slaine in that battell, might be buried in the same church, or else where it pleased their freends or seruants, without anie quartering and heading, or setting vp the heads or quarters in anie publike places. [O the patience and clemencie of this good king, who (besides the putting vp of wrongs doone to him by violence of foes without vengeance) freely forgauē the offenders, and did so honorablie temper his affections!]

“ There were found in the abbeie and other places of the towne, Edmund duke of Summerfet, John Lonsfrother lord prior of St. John, sir Thomas Tresham, sir Gerueis Clifton, and diuerse other knights and esquiers, which were apprehended, and all of them being brought before the duke of Glocester, sitting as Constable of

* He was buried without any solemnity, among some mean persons in the church of the black friers in Tewkesbury. HALL.

England, and the duke of Norffolke, as Marshall, in the middent of the towne, they were arreigned, condemned, and iudged to die; and so vpon the Tuesdaie, being the feuenth* of Maie, the said duke and the lord prior, with the two forenamed knights and twelue other knights, were on a scaffold, fet vp in the middle of the towne for that purpose. beheaded, and permitted to be buried, without anie other dismembring, or setting vp of their heads in anie one place or other.

“ The same Tuesdaie, the king departed from Teukesburie towards Worcester, and by the waie had knowledge that the queene Margaret was found in a poore house of religion, not far from thence, into the which she was withdrawen for safegard of hir selfe, on Saturdaie in the morning, being the daie of the battell †. She was after brought to London as prisoner, and so kept, till hir father ‡ ransomed hir with great summes of monie§. which he borrowed of Lewes the eleuenth king of France. And bicause he was not able to make repaiment thereof, he sold vnto the said Lewes (as the French writers affirme) the kingdomes of Naples, and both the Sicils, with the countie of Prouance.”

* Hall and Stowe, May 6.

† Hall says, “ that the queen was found in a chariot, half dead with grief at the sight of her forlorn affairs, without knowing what was become of the prince her son, and was brought in that condition to king Edward.”

‡ Regnier, duke of Anjou and Lorraine. He was titular king of Sicily, Naples, and Jerusalem, and descended from the count of Anjou, brother to Charles V.

§ Fifty thousand crowns.

*The Names of those Persons who were killed in the Battle
of the Gaslons, near Tewkesbury.*

(FROM LELAND'S ITIN.)

Edward prince of Wales, buried in the monastery
of Tewkesbury.

Edmund duke of Somerset, beheaded and buried
there.

John de Somerset, brother of Edmund, buried
there.

Thomas Courteney, earl of Devonshire, ditto

Lord Wenlok, whose body was removed to be bur-
ied elsewhere.

Humphrey Handeley, beheaded with Thomas
Courteney, and buried together.

Sir Edmund Havarde.

John Delves, the elder, was slain in the field, and
John Delves his son was beheaded there, buried toge-
ther, and afterwards removed elsewhere.

Sir William Wichingham.

Sir John Leukenor, slain in the field, and buried
near the Delves's.

Sir William Vaulz, who fell in the field and buried
there.

Sir Gervais Clifton, who was taken, beheaded, and
buried in the same place.

Sir William Car and Sir Henry Ross, taken,
beheaded, and buried in the church-yard of Teukef-
beric.

Sir Thomas Treffam, ditto.

Sir William Lirmouthe, John Urman, Thomas
Semar, William Rowys, fell in the field, and buried in
the church-yard.

Sir William Newborow, taken, beheaded, and bu-
ried in the same place.

Henry Wately, esq. killed and buried there.

Henry Barow, esq. ditto.

Felding, esq. ditto.

John Gower, sword bearer to prince Edward; John Flore, standard bearer to the duke of Somerset; Henry Trefham, Walter Courteney, Robert Acton, prisoners and beheaded.

Prior of St. John, London, ditto. His body was removed to be buried among his friends.

Hugh Courteney, made prisoner, and afterwards beheaded.

Pardoned by King Edward.

Queen Margaret.

Anne, wife of the prince of Wales, who was slain.

Foster, chief justice of England.

Dr. Mackerell, John Throghmerton, Baynton, Wroughton.

Stebbing says, to the monastery and convent of Tewkesbury, king Henry VII. granted the parochial church of Towton, to pray for the soul of Edmund duke of Somerset, his brother John, and others who lost their lives in the quarrel of the House of Lancaster.

The local memorials of this very decisive battle are but few. The principal scenes of the action are the meadow, which has received the appellation of bloody meadow, and the vineyard. The former lies between two gently descending banks, about half a mile south-west of the town, and was the spot where the slaughter was the greatest. The latter was the place where queen Margaret lay, and where some intrenchments are still to be traced.

Michael Drayton, in his "Miseries of Queen Margarite," has the following verses on this battle:

When SOMERSET and DEVONSHIRE came in
To the sad queene, and had her not despaire,
Though they of late infortunate had bin,
Yet there was helpe that Ruine to repaire
What they had lost they hop'd againe to winne,
And that the way lay open yet, and faire,
For that the West would wholly with her rise,
Besides from *Walles* assur'd her of supplies.

And euery day still adding to their force;
As on their Host tow'rds *Glocester* they guide
When EDWARD finding their intended course,
Againe for Battell strongly doth prouide,
Both Armies they supply with Foote and Horse,
By both their friends, as they affect the side,
And in their march at *Tezukebury* they mett
Where they in Order their Battalions set.

Ill was her choise of this vneuen ground,
Lucklesse the place vnlucky was the howre,
The heauens vpon her so extreamely fround,
As on her head their plagues at once to powre;
As in a Deluge here her hopes were drown'd,
Here sees shee death her faithfull friends deuoure,
The earth is fill'd with grones, the ayre with cryes,
Horror on each side doth enclose her eyes.

Neuer did death so terrible appeare,
Since first their Armes the *English* learnt to weeld,
Who would see slaughter, might behold it heere
In the true shape vpon this fatal field,
In vaine was valour, and in vaine was feare,
In vaine to fight, in vaine it was to yeeld,
In vaine to fly; for destiny discust,
By their owne hands, or others, dye they must.

Here her deare DEVONSHIERE noble COVRTNEY dyde,
 Her faithfull friend great SUMMERSET here fell,
 DELVES, LEVKNOR, HAMDEN, WHITTINGHAM beside,
 O MARGARITE, who thy miseries can tell!
 Sharpe were those swords which made their wounds so wide,
 Whose blood the soyle did with th' abundance swell
 Other her friends into the Towne that fled
 Taken, no better than the former speed.

But the amazing misery of all
 As heauen the greatst vntill the last had kept,
 As it would say, that after this none shall
 By mortall eyes be worthy to be wept,
 The Prince her sonne who sees his friends thus fall
 And on each side their carcases lye heapt
 Making away in this most piteous plight
 Is taken prisoner in his tardy flight.

And forth by CROFTS before the Conquerour brought,
 His Proclamations cleering euery doubt,
 Of the youths safety: liuing were he caught,
 As a Reward to him should bring him out;
 But when they once had found him whom they fought
 Hearing his answeres, Princely, wise, and stout,
 Those bloody brothers, HASTINGS, and the rest,
 Sheath'd their sharpe Ponyards in his manly breast.

Queene MARGARITE thus of mortalls most forlorne
 Her sonne now slaine, her army ouerthrowne
 Left to the world as fortunes only scorne
 And not one friend to whom to make her moane
 (To so much woe was neuer woman borne)
 'This wretched Lady wandring all alone
 Getts to a homely Cell not farre away
 If possibly to hide her from the day.

But wretched woman quickly there bewray'd,
 She thence is taken and to Prison sent,

Meanely attended, miserably array'd,
 The people wondring at her as she went ;
 Of whom the most malicious her vphray'd
 With good *Duke Humphres* death, her heart to rent,
 Whilst her milde lookes, and Gracefull gesture drue,
 Many a sad eye, her miseries to rue.

Till by Duke RAYNER Ranomed at last,
 Her tender Father, who a Prince but poore,
 Borrow'd great Summes of LEWES, with much wast,
 Which for he was not able to restore,
Prouince and both the *Cicils*, to him past,
 With fruitfull *Naples*, which was all his store ;
 To bring her backe, from earthly ioyes exil'd
 The vndone father, helps the vndone Child.

And though enlarg'd ere she could leaue the land,
 Making a long yeere of each short-liu'd houre,
 She heares that by Duke RICHARD's murthering hand
 The King her husband suffers in the Towre
 As though high heauen had laid a strict command
 Vpon each starre, some plague on her to powre :
 And vntil now that nothing could suffice
 Nor giue a period to her Miseryes.



MILITARY TRANSACTIONS AT TEWKESBURY, IN THE
REIGN OF KING CHARLES I.

THE banners of war were again displayed at this place, during the civil dissensions between Charles I. and his parliament, which at last ended in the overthrow of our monarchy. The subsequent account is taken from "Corbett's Military Government of Gloucester."

"Sir William Vavasour, sir Walter Pye, and colonel Wroughton, possessed themselves of the town of Tewkesbury on behalf of the king, and fortified it after the siege of Gloucester. But before that siege, the king's forces under sir Matthew Carew were possessed of Tewkesbury, which they quitted on the first news of the Welch army being made prisoners near Gloucester, and in less than twelve hours the town of Tewkesbury was repossessed by the parliament's forces, who immediately received an alarm, that the former forces were returned with a greater power: 'Twas a gallant brigade of horse, commanded by lord Grandison, which came from Cheltenham. Captain Fiennes, with his party, had certainly been surprized by them, but for a ridiculous accident. Lord Grandison meeting with a man going from the town, about a mile off, questioned him whether any forces were there, of what strength, and by whom commanded. The man, supposing them part of the parliament's forces, and willing to curry favour, talked of vast numbers, great strength,

and defied the cavaliers with much affected indignation. Upon this they held a council of war, and were once about to turn back. This delay gave an hour's respite to those within to prepare for flight, who had no sooner recovered the end of the town, than the horse entered it at the other, amazed to see themselves so miserably deluded.

“ This town was afterwards fortified by the king's party, and became a bad neighbour to Gloucester, the parliament's head garrison; wherefore governor Massie, on the 5th of June, in the year 1644, with one hundred and twenty horse, about thirty dragoons, and three hundred foot, resolved to attempt the taking it. The horse and dragoons, commanded by major Hammond, advanced some few hours before the foot and artillery, and were to alarm the enemy till the foot came up. They made a halt about a mile from the town, and drew out a pretty strong forlorn hope, conceiving they might possibly surprize them, if they had not as yet taken the alarm. And first, three men were sent before to espy if the draw-bridge was down, and six more behind went undiscovered; next unto these marched the forlorn hope, and the main body in the rear. In this posture they advanced up to the town, where they found the bridge down, the guards slender, the enemy without intelligence, and supinely negligent. On went the first party, killed the centinels, a pikeman, and a musketeer without match, and made good the bridge. The forlorn hope rushed in, and after them a full body of horse and dragoons fell upon the guards, came up to the main guard before the alarm was taken, overturned their ordnance, and charged through the streets as far as the bridge, Worcester-way, where they took Major Myn, governor of the town. The enemy threw down

their arms, many escaped by flight, and many were taken prisoners. Of the king's party, colonel Godfrey, the quarter-master-general, and a lieutenant, were slain in the first charge. But the parliament's forces dismounting, and neglecting to make good the bridge, at which they entered, and to disarm the main guard, the latter at length took courage, charged some of them, and beat them out of the town. However, colonel Massie coming up with a few horse in the van of the foot, ordered the dragoons to fire on those that defended the bridge* next Gloucester, whilst he drew the foot round the town, it being now dark night; but before he could reach the further end, where he entered about midnight, the garrison were fled towards Worcester. There were found in the town two brass drakes, eighteen barrels of powder, and a few other military stores. The town itself was of great consequence to the parliament, as a frontier town, securing that side of the county, and commanding a great part of Worcestershire."

* Swilgate.



APPENDIX.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE WALTON WATER, NEAR TEWKESBURY.

THE medicinal powers and natural history of the waters of Walton, near Tewkesbury, having been illustrated by experiments in a valuable tract, written some years since by the ingenious Dr. Johnstone of Worcester, and annexed, with the Doctor's permission, to the former editions of this history; it might be deemed an omission in the editor, to conclude this work without noticing it, though, from the immediate residence of the proprietor upon the estate, we are sorry to say, access to the well, is now become difficult. We shall therefore, content ourselves with the following extracts, referring the reader to the tract itself for further satisfaction.

“ The use and advantages of waters is established by experience alone, as well as that of every article, in the *materia medica*. The advantages found from the use of the Walton well, in various eruptive diseases, and in old sordid ulcers, as well as in many other diseases, has already been so considerable, as to confirm the expectation grounded on their being similar to the Cheltenham water.

“ It will undoubtedly be found as much like Cheltenham water, as that water is like itself at different seasons. Seasons occasion accidental differences of saturation in all mineral waters, the cause of which is sometimes known and sometimes unknown. Rainy

seasons, while they make springs more abundant, render the mineral impregnation at the same time weaker. To this alteration, the Walton water must be sometimes liable, as it lies on a plain, part of which is frequently overflowed with water. But if by experience this shall be found to have any considerable influence, means will be used to remove the inconvenience. An inconvenience which is very seldom likely to happen in dry and warm seasons, in which waters of this class are for the most part resorted to.

“ After all, I am persuaded, that the dilution of mineral waters is very seldom any injury to the patient. The virtues and powers of mineral water depending principally on the quantity of water, the medium, in which the medicinal ingredients are suspended; the vehicle which conveys them into the smallest vessels, and makes them capable of removing obstructions fixed in them, and in various glands; hence the same medicinal ingredients, given in the usual forms, have but little efficacy in removing such diseases.

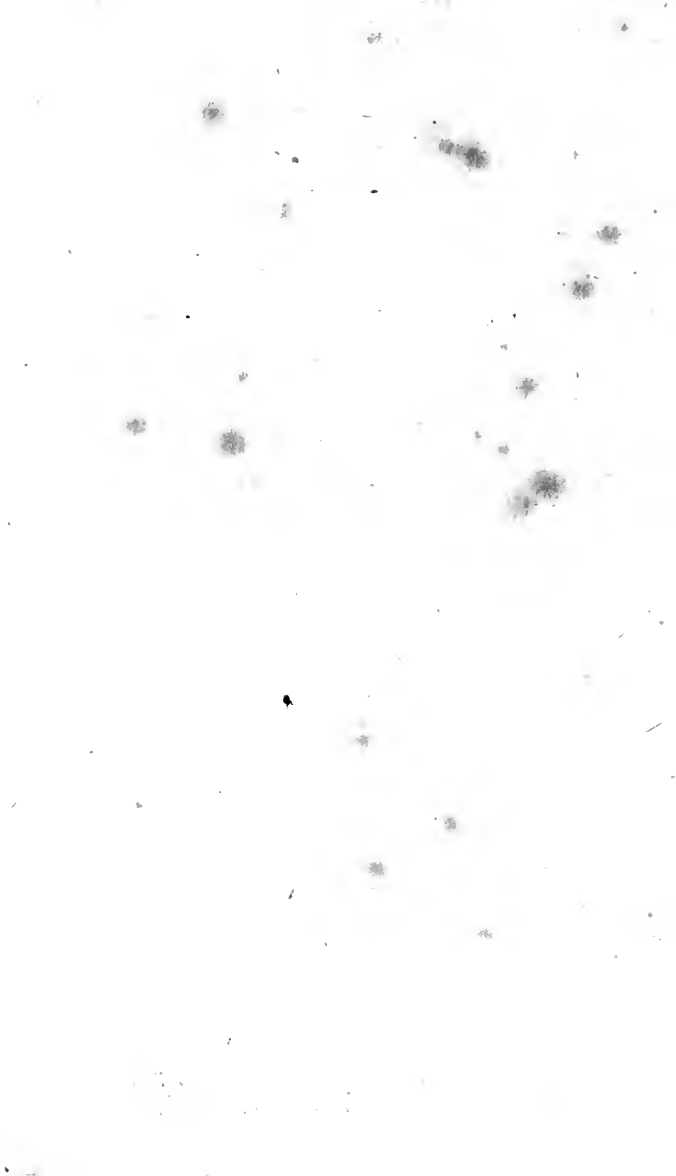
“ The healing powers of the Walton well, and those of its elder sister of Cheltenham, are owing to the mixture of a neutral compound of vitriolated magnesia, commonly called epsom, or cathartic salt; to vitriolated mineral alkali, or glauber salt, with a small portion of salited mineral alkali, magnesia, and lime, nearly to the quantity of a drachm, in a pint of water; also, to a considerable quantity of fixed air, and hepatic gas, by the former of which iron, and by the latter magnesia, and absorbent earth are held in solution.

“ The whole is a composition friendly to appetite and digestion, as well as soft and pleasing to the taste. It is also a penetrating deobstruent and attenuating me-

dicine, and in sensible operation, a quick and gentle laxative and diuretic; and when applied with discretion, it may be continued a long time without any diminution of strength.

“ It is obvious this water contains saline ingredients, and, others possessing different attractive powers and affinities, which, though balanced in the water, yet, when mixed with animal fluids and salts in the course of digestion, chylication, and in circulation with the blood, must be so changed and varied, as to form new attractions and combinations in their course through the vessels, whence compounds, possessing properties different from what existed before, will be produced. and the system itself will be changed. It is well known, that cold is generated by dissolving salts, and, that while saline bodies, of different affinities and attractive powers, are forming new compounds, such salts, in the process of mutual attraction and incorporation, produce heat. In this manner, and from such causes, new stimuli, with other alterations, take place in the glands and remoter vessels of our system, from the salts, combined with other ingredients in mineral waters; and it is by these means, as well as evacuation, they become beneficial, and are really valuable alterative medicines.”





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